

MILITARY

NFL rejects veterans group's Super Bowl ad urging fans, players to stand for anthem

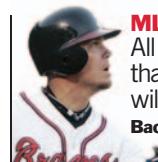
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AFGHANISTAN

US officials: Americans killed, injured in hotel attack

By JOSH LEDERMAN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Multiple American citizens were killed and injured in the Taliban's 13-hour siege of an upscale hotel in Kabul, Afghanistan, the State Department said Tuesday.

No exact figures were immediately available for either the U.S. fatalities or injuries. In total, 22 people were killed in the attack including 14 foreigners, Afghan officials have said. Eleven of the 14 foreigners had been previously identified as working for the private Afghan airline KamAir.

"We offer our deepest condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed and wish for the speedy recovery of those wounded," the State Department said. "Out of respect for the families of the deceased, we have no further comment."

The American deaths were the latest reminder of the continuing toll paid by the United States in Afghanistan, where local forces have struggled to fight the Taliban since the U.S. and NATO formally ended their combat mission in 2014.

President Donald Trump has pursued a plan that involves sending thousands more U.S. troops to Afghanistan and envisions shifting away from a "time-based" approach to one that more explicitly links U.S. assistance to concrete results from the Afghan government. Trump's U.N. envoy, Nikki Haley, said after a recent visit to Afghanistan that Trump's policy was working and that peace talks between the government and the Taliban are closer than ever before.

The six Taliban militants who stormed Kabul's Intercontinental Hotel on Saturday in suicide vests were looking for foreigners and Afghan officials to kill.

SEE ATTACK ON PAGE 7



IBRAHIM MASE, DHA-DEPO PHOTOS/AP

Turkish Army armored personnel carriers, led by a tank, are driven toward Syria on the outskirts of Hassa, Turkey, on Tuesday.

Turkish offensive against Syrian Kurds threatens relationship with NATO ally US

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Turkish assault on U.S.-backed forces in the Syrian border town of Afrin is testing an American strategy that relies on Kurdish rebels in the battle against Islamic State, but which also risks pitting one NATO member against another.

For the U.S., the Kurdish fighters that dominate the Syrian Democratic Forces have been indispensable in the battle against ISIS, which has been routed from scores of strongholds.

But if the Kurds have been tactically vital, they are now proving to be a long-term strategic liability, some experts argue. Eventually, the U.S. may need to decide to abandon the Kurds or come into conflict with NATO ally Turkey.

When the U.S. announced last week that it was developing a border force inside Syria, Ankara lashed out. In Turkey's view, the Kurdish fighters that make up a large part of the force are an extension of the PKK — a militant group that Turkey regards as its top threat.



SOURCES: Maps4News/HERE; Liveuamap, AP

NOGA AM-RAV/Stars and Stripes

SEE KURDS ON PAGE 7

MILITARY

NFL rejects vets group's Super Bowl anthem ad

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The National Football League rejected an advertisement for its official Super Bowl LII programs that urged players and people who attend the game to stand during the national anthem, according to American Veterans, the organization that submitted the ad.

Omitted from the programs was a full-page ad picturing the American flag, saluting soldiers and the words "Please Stand," referring to the movement of NFL players protesting racial inequality and injustice by kneeling during the performance of the national anthem before the start of games.

Outcry over the protests surged last fall when President Donald Trump criticized the NFL for allowing it to continue. In October, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL owners decided the league wouldn't penalize players for kneeling.

Joe Chenelly, the national director of American Veterans, known as AMVETS, said Monday that the group was "surprised and disappointed" when the NFL told him Friday the league had rejected the ad.

"The NFL said it does not want to take a position on that," Chenelly said. "Really, by not letting us run an ad, we think they are taking a position."

Super Bowl LII programs began printing Monday, following the NFC and AFC championship games

Sunday night. The New England Patriots will compete against the Philadelphia Eagles in the Super Bowl on Feb. 4.

NFL Vice President of Communications Brian McCarthy said in a statement that official Super Bowl programs aren't a place for political messaging.

"The Super Bowl game program is designed for fans to commemorate and celebrate the game, players, teams and the Super Bowl. It's never been a place for advertising that could be considered by some as a political statement," McCarthy said. "The NFL has long supported the military and veterans and will again salute our servicemen and women in the Super Bowl with memorable on-field moments that will be televised as part of the game."

McCarthy said AMVETS was given a chance to amend the wording of their ad to other options, such as "Please Honor Our Veterans" or "Please Stand for Our Veterans."

He noted an ad from Veterans of Foreign Wars was approved for the program. It reads, "We Stand For Veterans."

Production on the programs was delayed while they awaited an answer from AMVETS, McCarthy said, and the NFL ultimately printed the programs without the ad in order to meet deadlines.

Chenelly disputes the NFL didn't hear back from AMVETS in time for printing. He said the group responded to the league that changing the words on their ad would mean abandoning their message.

AMVETS, an organization com-

prising approximately 250,000 veterans and 1,400 posts nationwide, sent a letter to Goodell on Monday calling the decision to exclude their ad an affront to free speech.

"Freedom of speech works both ways. We respect the rights of those who choose to protest, as these rights are precisely what our veterans have fought — and in many cases died — for," wrote National Commander Marion Polk. "But imposing corporate censorship to deny that same right to those veterans who have secured it for us all is reprehensible."

AMVETS was prepared to pay \$30,000 to a third-party publisher for the full-page ad, the price available to nonprofits. The group had hoped to use the advertisement as a fundraiser for its "Americanism" initiative, in which its members travel to schools nationwide to teach flag etiquette. The program also involves a poster and essay contest for K-12 students.

Chenelly said it wasn't the group's intention to criticize the NFL, though the group did write a letter to the NFL last year in opposition to players kneeling during the anthem.

"We never meant to be disrespectful," he said.

The same advertisement was accepted by the National Hockey League and National Basketball Association for programs for their upcoming all-star games, Chenelly said.

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JAMES CARRENO, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

The Army says two soldiers were killed Saturday in a crash of an AH-64 Apache Longbow helicopter — similar to this one delivered to Mesa, Ariz., in 2006 — during training operations in California.

2 soldiers killed in Apache crash in Calif.

(Victorville, Calif.) Daily Press

FORT IRWIN — Two soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash while training here Saturday.

According to U.S. Army officials, 1st Lt. Clayton R. Cullen, 25, of Indiana, and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin F. Burke, 28, of California, died when their AH-64 Apache helicopter crashed during training operations at the National Training Center on Saturday morning.

Cullen and Burke were both assigned to the 4th Combat Aviation Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and were stationed at Fort Carson in Colorado, according to a statement from Fort Irwin's media affairs division.

"These two young leaders left this world in a manner that left an indelible mark on the entire Iron Eagle team," Gallaway said. "We will forever be better soldiers, and a more combat-ready aviation brigade, due to their leadership."

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

from our very best leaders," 4th CAB, 4th Infantry Division Commander Col. Scott Gallaway said. "They were selfless, mission focused and committed to their teammates. Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to Clayton's and Kevin's families."

Cullen joined the U.S. Army in April 2015, according to officials, and was assigned to his unit last September, while Burke was part of the unit since February 2010.

"These two young leaders left this world in a manner that left an indelible mark on the entire Iron Eagle team," Gallaway said. "We will forever be better soldiers, and a more combat-ready aviation brigade, due to their leadership."

The cause of the crash remains under investigation.

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PACIFIC

Jungle uniform put to test at Hawaii warfare school

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — More than 800 Hawaii-based soldiers this month have donned the Army's newest uniform prototype for hot weather combat that boasts lighter weight and quicker drying time.

They'll put the uniforms immediately through the rigors of the 25th Infantry Division's jungle warfare school in the mountains outside Schofield Barracks.

They'll also wear them to several exercises that are part of this year's Pacific Pathways, which kicks off in February with Cobra Gold in the jungles of Thailand. A Pathways exercise will also be conducted in the Philippines later in the spring.

About 700 Hawaii soldiers are also field-testing five prototypes of a jungle combat boot.

" Schofield Barracks and the jungle training center there in Hawaii provide an ideal training environment for all things jungle," said Ross Lee, a spokesman for Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment, the Army office that develops and fields attire for soldiers.

More test uniforms will be fielded in March, he said.

The uniforms are part of the Army's continual quest to utilize new technologies as fresh challenges crop up.

"Because it worked in 1984 doesn't mean it's going to work in 2004, let alone 2018," Lee said. "As an Army of evolving soldiers — younger soldiers, more athletic soldiers, different missions — the Army has to evolve and modernize equipment."



Hawaii-based soldiers are field-testing five variations of a prototype jungle combat boot tested by soldiers last year.

'Because it worked in 1984 doesn't mean it's going to work in 2004, let alone 2018.'

Ron Lee
Soldier Protection and Individual Equipment

"It's a part of our ongoing modernization effort. The uniform and the jungle combat boots are just a part of that process."

The Army's Program Executive Office Soldier will begin collecting feedback from soldiers in March, Daniel Ferenczy, a product manager for the office, said in an Army news release last month.

The new version of jungle uniform is more breathable and light-

weight because excess heat- and moisture-locking layers and seams have been eliminated, Ferenczy said.

The uniform can dry within an hour — 30 minutes faster than the jungle uniform now being used, he said.

Among the other changes are the elimination of the upright and snug-fitting collar; shoulder pockets that open from top rather than



Photos courtesy of the U.S. Army

This improved hot weather combat uniform is being field-tested by soldiers in Hawaii.

sides; buttons replacing zipper closures; removal of breast and back trouser pockets; improved crotch gusset; and greater maneuverability in the knee.

The goal is to have a final version of the uniform worked out during the 2019 fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, Lee said.

The jungle boots being tested are five variants of a prototype tested by soldiers last year. Soldiers wear-

ing those said they wanted a boot that was lighter, more flexible and with a thinner sole, the Army said.

The five versions now being tested in Hawaii — produced by five manufacturers — meet those feedback demands, Ferenczy said.

The boots are also designed for better traction in mud, resistance to punctures and quick drying time.

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Extensive upgrades to Navy's oldest warship complete



TYLER HLAVAC/Stars and Stripes

After 19 months in dry dock, the USS Blue Ridge sits pierside Monday at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy's oldest warship has completed a 19-month dry dock period designed to extend its life another 20 years.

The USS Blue Ridge, which serves as the flagship of the Yokosuka-based 7th Fleet, returned pierside this week at Yokosuka after an extended dry dock selected restricted availability maintenance period, a Navy statement said.

It "received numerous upgrades, including installation of the Consolidated Afloat Networks and Enterprise Services computer system, modernization of the ship's engineering plant, and refurbishment of the main condenser and ventilation systems," the statement said.

Installing CANES on a ship will "consolidate and modernize communications, computers and intelligence network systems," according to Northrop Grumman.

The Blue Ridge still needs additional repair work before re-

turning to service, the Navy said. It is slated to receive engineering and electrical plant upgrades and living quarters improvements.

Engineering plant issues will require the amphibious command ship to undergo additional repairs for the next several months, 7th Fleet Spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Adam Cole told Stars and Stripes.

"While modernization of Blue Ridge's communications suite has gone very well, additional maintenance is required to address issues with the ship's engineering plant which is nearing 50 years in service," he said. "Once these repairs are finished, Blue Ridge will resume its role as 7th Fleet's command ship and play a critical role in our forces operate forward on a daily basis."

The ship entered dry dock in June 2016 for what was scheduled to be a 14-month period.

Commissioned in 1970, the Blue Ridge is the oldest deployable warship in the Navy and the second-oldest, still-active ship. Only the USS Constitution, which is primarily a ceremonial ship, is

older.

In 2011, the chief of naval operations extended the Blue Ridge's service life into 2039.

The Blue Ridge is one of only two amphibious-command ships still in service. The other, the USS Mount Whitney, is the flagship of the Navy's 6th Fleet out of Naples, Italy.

Before the Blue Ridge becomes operational, the Navy said the crew will undergo extensive training in search-and-rescue operations, navigation, seamanship, engineering proficiency and damage-control efforts.

"After about two years in the yards spent on crucial repairs and improvements, it's the crew's turn to get ready to get back on patrol and return to our mission once again," Blue Ridge commander Capt. Brett Crozier in the statement. "I would like to especially thank the crew, family members, ship's repair force workers, and others who have had a hand in modernizing Blue Ridge."

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PACIFIC

US bases dig out from more than a foot of snow

BY LEON COOK

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Heavy snow meant a day off work Tuesday for many troops and civilians stationed in and around the Japanese capital.

"We observed 12.5 inches," said Senior Airman Jeremy Loehr, a weather forecaster with the 374th Operations Support Squadron, after Monday's snowfall at Yokota.

That's nearly double the 7 inches forecasters predicted and about as much as the last major snowfall on the base in February 2014.

Only mission-essential personnel reported to work at Yokota and Naval Air Facility Atsugi in nearby Kanagawa Prefecture. Others were urged to stay off the roads while emergency crews cleared them.

At Camp Zama, also in Kanagawa, personnel were told to report to work at noon — a four-hour delay. Base residents were encouraged to monitor official social media pages for updates on when services would resume.

Emergency crews got some help from Mother Nature as temperatures rose. At Zama, most base services were restored by noon as snow dripped from trees and snowmen rapidly shrunk.

At Yokosuka Naval Base — about a 70-minute train ride south of Tokyo — many base services were either closed or slated for a 10 a.m. start because of weather conditions. Later in the morning, the base ordered most facilities to reopen by noon as conditions improved, although some, such as the base ID card center and the veterinary clinic remained closed. Most snow accumulation on roads disappeared by after-



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

A snowplow passes C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Yokota Air Base, Japan, on Tuesday.

noon as temperatures rose above 50 degrees.

Back at Yokota, families enjoyed the extra time to frolic in the snow, sledding and building snowmen.

"It's great to see everyone out here having a good time," Tech. Sgt. Ryan Babel, an orthotics technician with the 374th Medical Group, said while dodging snowballs near a housing area on the base's east side. "The kids are having a blast."

Stars and Stripes reporter Tyler Hiavac contributed to this report.
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Plows clear the way Tuesday after more than 12 inches of snow fell at Yokota Air Base.

Mattis seeks to renew ties with Indonesian special forces

BY ALEX HORTON
The Washington Post

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis is pushing to re-establish contact with Indonesia's premier counter-terrorism force, he said Tuesday, decades after it was barred from working closely with U.S. forces due to human rights abuses.

Mattis told reporters a major component of discussion with Indonesian Defense Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu is broadening education and training with counterterrorism units in the country, including the special operations group known as Kopassus.

"We're going to get down and let ourselves be guided by the facts on the ground," Mattis said, referring to the State Department process known as "Leahy vetting" that clears foreign troops and units receiving U.S. assistance such as training and equipment.

The regulation bars contact with those found to commit human rights violations including rape, torture and murder, and it must be shown that action was taken against offending troops and units such as discrediting personnel or reassigning commanders.

"One of the sanctions is clearly that they are not allowed to go. They can't do training together, and he will reopen this," Ryacudu said after his talk with Mattis.

Mattis said he believes Kopassus has turned a corner and cleansed abusers among the unit that produced brutal crackdowns



TATY SUFLANA/AP

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, center, with his Indonesian counterpart, Ryamizard Ryacudu, inspects a guard of honor prior to their meeting in Jakarta, Indonesia, on Tuesday.

under Indonesian dictator Suharto, crushing communist sympathizers and repressing regime opponents in East Timor, Aceh and Papua.

Suharto was deposed in 1998, and the ban was implemented the following year. Members of the Kopassus unit have received training in Australia, where there are fewer restrictions over human rights, officials said.

Human rights advocates have said Indonesia allowed alleged abusers to return to duty, including Lt. Gen. Sjafrir Sjamsuddin, a former member of Kopassus who served as deputy defense minister for four years and left his post in 2010.

Mattis arrived Sunday in In-

donesia on his first overseas trip since debuting a strategy to reinforce defense efforts on big power militaries, calling on the military to keep pace with resurgent Russia and China by building rela-

tionships in key regions such as Southeast Asia.

"No single nation resolves security challenges alone in this world," Mattis said alongside Ryacudu, citing the worldwide threat posed by the extremist Islamic State. A faction of the organization was dislodged from Marawi in the Philippines after a bloody five-month siege in 2017, sparking concern they might regroup in Indonesia.

Indonesia has also increasingly asserted itself against Chinese expansion, appearing to align with U.S. efforts to curb its military reach.

"What we're looking for is a world where we solve problems and we don't shred trust, we don't militarize features in the middle of international waters, we don't invade other countries, in Russia's case," Mattis said Sunday.

China has claimed nearly all the South China Sea, where it has chiseled military outposts and runways from rock and claimed

dominion over islands and waterways where \$3 trillion in trade flow every year, triggering condemnation from an international tribunal ignored by Beijing.

Indonesia has built up a military presence on the Natuna Islands, its northernmost exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea right outside Chinese territorial claims. Indonesia renamed the fish- and gas-rich area the North Natuna Sea in 2017 following multiple excursions of Chinese fishing vessels in the area.

The name change drew rebuke in Beijing. Mattis repeated the name on Tuesday alongside Ryacudu, a signal the U.S. intends to stand by Indonesian efforts to repel Chinese excursions into its waters.

The vast archipelago of 16,000 islands, positioned as a fulcrum between the Indian and Pacific Ocean, has emerged as a key military partner, taking part in numerous annual joint exercises and arms sales with the United States.

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MILITARY

Navy's new warship stuck in ice for month

BY AMY B WANG
The Washington Post

The commissioning of the USS Little Rock was held in Buffalo, N.Y., last month, on a day so cold that people's breath billowed through the air as they spoke.

Partway through the ceremony, snow began falling — sideways — on the thousands of attendees.

It might have been a sign.

Still, none of it stopped a string of military officials and a bunched-up delegation from Arkansas from singing the praises for more than an hour of the Navy's newest warship.

One Navy official spoke of the combat ship's "adaptability, speed and maneuverability." A Navy chaplain bowed his head in prayer to bless the Little Rock before it sailed to its homeport, Naval Station Mayport in Jacksonville, Fla.

"We commend this ship, the USS Little Rock, to your care and divine providence," the chaplain said. "Grant them fair winds and following seas."

Despite the benedictions, the ship's maiden voyage has gotten off to a rather inauspicious start. A week after it was commissioned, as it made its way up the Saint Lawrence Seaway, the USS Little Rock became trapped by ice near Montreal.

It has remained stuck there since Christmas Eve, the Toronto Star first reported, thanks to "unusually heavy ice conditions."

A Navy spokeswoman told the newspaper that other ships had made it through the area with-



GRAHAM HUGHES, THE (TORONTO) CANADIAN PRESS/AP

The USS Little Rock sits at the Old Port of Montreal on Sunday. The newly commissioned Navy warship will be wintering in Montreal after its journey to Florida was interrupted by cold and ice.

out trouble in December. "The temperatures in Montreal and throughout the transit area have been colder than normal and included near-record low temperatures, which created significant and historical conditions in the late December, early January time frame," Lt. Cmdr. Courtney Hillson told the newspaper.

Temporary heaters and 16 de-icers have been added to the USS

Little Rock, and its crewmembers — some 70 officers and personnel in all — have been given new cold-weather clothing while staying on the ship for training and certification during the delay, Hillson added.

"Keeping the ship in Montreal until waterways are clear ensures the safety of the ship and crew and will have limited impact on the ship's operational schedule,"

Hillson told the Star. It's unclear how long it will take before the waterways near the trapped ship are navigable again or whether the Navy considered sending in icebreakers to free the USS Little Rock.

Hillson did not immediately respond to requests for comment Monday morning.

According to the Navy's website, the USS Little Rock is a

389-foot-long littoral combat ship — "a fast, agile, mission focused platform designed to operate in near-shore environments, while capable of open-ocean tasking and winning against 21st-century coastal threats such as submarines, mines, and swarming small craft."

It uses two gas turbine engines, two propulsion diesels and four waterjets to speeds up to 45-plus knots" — when it's not surrounded by ice, that is.

The USS Little Rock was named after another ship that was commissioned in 1945, at the end of World War II. The original USS Little Rock was ultimately taken out of service in 1976 and now rests as part of a museum in Buffalo's waterfront district, along with other decommissioned naval ships.

As Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown pointed out at the December ceremony, the commissioning of the second USS Little Rock was the first time in the Navy's 242-year history that a ship was commissioned alongside its namesake.

Team to probe cause of pilots' physiological events

BY WILLIAM HOWARD
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force has set up a general officer-led team to investigate the rising incidence of in-flight oxygen deprivation and other conditions that forced the grounding of several jets last year.

The team will look at so-called unexplained physiological events, or UPEs, that pilots experience, including oxygen deprivation, disorientation and low carbon dioxide levels in the blood, the service said in a statement Monday. The Air Force did not specify a deadline for possible recommendations.

"As part of the integrated effort to address physiological events,



Doorenbos

the Air Force is providing more resources to understand UPEs, standardize response actions to such events and assess options for more robust

aircrew training to recognize and respond to these events," Gen. Bobbi Jo Doorenbos said in a statement. "Our ultimate goal is to prevent UPEs."

Last year, 55 F-35A Lightning II jets were grounded for nearly two weeks at Luke Air Force Base,

Ariz., after pilots experienced oxygen deprivation symptoms during flight.

The Navy, too, has reported an increase in similar events. In December, a NASA review identified oxygen system failures in F/A-18 Hornets as the cause of four pilot deaths that occurred over a span of 10 years. That investigation found that failures in the Hornets increased from 57 in 2012 to 125 in 2016.

Officials couldn't determine what caused the episodes at the time of groundings at Luke Air Force Base, the Air Force said last year. "Specific concerns were eliminated as possible causes, including maintenance and aircrew flight equipment procedures," ac-

cording to a statement.

The F-35A pilots were instructed to avoid altitudes where the oxygen systems failures took place and increase the minimum levels for backup oxygen systems on each flight.

In early January, Aviation Week reported that 28 A-10 Warthogs at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz., were grounded in November after two pilots experienced in-flight physiological episodes, resulting in hypoxia-like symptoms.

After a week of investigations, an underlying cause for the oxygen system malfunctions couldn't be determined, and the A-10s returned to regular operations, Aviation Week reported.

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Electric Boat chief upbeat about rising tide for submarines

BY STEPHEN SINGER
The Hartford (Conn.) Courant

The president of Electric Boat delivered an upbeat outlook for the submarine manufacturer on Monday, detailing to a business audience increased hiring, a rising number of subs being built and new buildings planned for the Groton, Conn., site to handle the expanding workload.

EB President Jeffrey Geiger, presenting the annual outlook to about 100 business and local officials at a gathering in Groton, detailed how Electric Boat is benefiting from a shift in U.S. military strategy that's turning its attention to sea power to face down threats from China, Iran and Russia.

"We're very much in a growth environment," he said.

The labor force at Electric Boat, which designs and manufactures submarines in Groton and Quonset Point, R.I., surpassed the 16,000 mark last year, the first time it's reached that number in nearly 25 years.

"And it's only going to go up," Geiger said.

About 11,600 of the workers are in Groton, 4,100 are in Rhode Island and 500 work at other sites.

Employment is expected to grow to nearly 19,000 by the mid-2020s, he said. As many as 2,200 jobs are to be filled this year, with 1,000 in Rhode Island and 1,200 at Groton-New London.

Demonstrating how attractive well-paid manufacturing and engineering jobs are, EB received about 81,000 applications last year for 3,000 job openings, Geiger said.

WAR ON TERRORISM

A-10s join effort to target Taliban drug factories

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — A squadron of A-10C "Warthog" Thunderbolts IIIs deployed to this sprawling airfield in southern Afghanistan last week and already have started flying missions as part of a U.S. and Afghan air campaign targeting Taliban drug facilities.

The \$19 million aircraft, beloved by ground troops and so far spared from Air Force efforts to ground them for budgetary reasons, also will support counterterrorism efforts.

The deployment comes as U.S. Central Command realigns its aircraft, personnel and other assets in the region, as the anti-Islamic State campaign in Iraq and Syria winds down and as demand for precision strikes and close air support ramps up in Afghanistan under President Donald Trump's South Asia strategy.

In addition to the A-10s, the U.S. has deployed MQ-9 Reaper drones to provide armed overwatch and surveillance, as well as HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopters for personnel recovery and combat search and rescue.

The A-10s are from the 303rd Expeditionary Fighter Squadron, based out of Whiteman Air Force Base, Mo. They had been slated to replace a squadron flying out of Incirlik Air Base, Turkey, but were redirected to Afghanistan in late December, after the U.S.-led coalition cleared out ISIS in both Iraq and Syria, said Maj. Gen. James Hecker, who commands all U.S. airpower in the country.

The warplanes, which are armed with a 30 mm cannon and can carry a payload of 16,000

pounds of munitions, arrived Friday and flew their first missions within 24 hours, he said. They joined an air campaign in Afghanistan that has taken aim at the Taliban narcotics trade since November.

A series of strikes have destroyed about 30 drug facilities, which military officials say has eliminated more than \$20 million in revenues from the insurgents' war chest — roughly 10 percent of the group's annual take from the drug trade.

Afghanistan is the global leading producer of poppies, supplying about 80 percent of the world's opium. Despite more than \$8.5 billion in U.S.-funded counter narcotics efforts in the country in more than a decade, production is on the rise. In 2017, a record of almost 10,000 tons of opium was produced, according to a joint survey conducted by the United Nations and the Afghan government.

"The Taliban still has not felt the full brunt of American and Afghan air power," Hecker said in a statement. "With the arrival of new air assets and the growing capabilities of Afghan pilots, the Taliban will have a constant eye toward the sky," he said.

Before the drawdown of U.S. and NATO troops from Afghanistan in 2014 — which at their peak



PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Above: Maj. Gen. James Hecker speaks in front of an A-10 Thunderbolt II at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. Below: Maj. Gen. Mohammad Shoib, Afghan air force commander, front left, and Hecker visit the airfield.

numbered nearly 140,000 — dozens of coalition jets regularly bombed guerrilla forces throughout the country. They included U.S. A-10s and F-16s, French Mirage 2000s and British and German Tornados.

The Afghan air force began flying A-29 Super Tucano light attack planes and MD-530 helicopters about two years ago. They have now incorporated the attack aircraft into daily operations, along with C-208 and C-130 transports and Mi-17 helicopters, officials said.

Super Tucanos, aided by their own optical air controllers on the ground, recently conducted their first strikes against targets of opportunity in support of ground forces' maneuvers last month as government troops fought to retake the district center of Marjah in Helmand province.

The U.S.-led NATO training and advising mission in the country is focused on modernizing and building the air force as part of a security forces "road map," which also calls for significantly expanding the government's special operations forces. The air force and special operations units are the workhorses of the country's military.

"The success of the air force



is key to tipping the battlefield in favor of [government forces]," said Maj. Gen. Mohammad Shoib, commander of the air force, in a statement. "The Afghan air force is successfully fighting and growing, at the same time increasing attack capabilities while delivering daily blows to the Taliban."

Last year saw a dramatic rise in airstrikes, beginning shortly after Trump's inauguration in January. In August, the president announced that he would give commanders greater strike authorities as part of his strategy for the region.

Despite a pace of airstrikes more than double that of 2016 last summer, the tempo increased

even more in the months that followed Trump's announcement, with more strikes racked up in 2017 than in the two previous years combined.

Along with the increase in airstrikes have come heavy civilian casualties, the U.S. said last month. Critics of the U.S. bombing campaign say it could lead to blowback from the increasing noncombatant death toll.

"Using more bombs and bigger bombs also creates hatred as it causes more civilian deaths," said Haji Sakhai, a member of Afghanistan's parliament from Kunar province.

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DOD, watchdog at odds over dealing with child abuse by Afghan troops

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

A government watchdog suggested that Congress might want to prohibit the Defense Department from spending money on Afghan military units whose members sexually abuse children or commit other human rights violations. But the Pentagon disagreed with that idea, saying such incidents must be weighed against U.S. national security interests.

The suggestion was made by the office of the U.S. Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction in a previously classified report released Tuesday. It highlights the challenges the U.S. military faces in partnering with forces abroad that do not always adhere to the same codes of conduct. U.S. troops have long complained that some Afghan commanders sexually abuse boys.

Ninety-three members of Congress requested that the SIGAR investigate the issue after a 2015 New York Times report alleged that sexual abuse of children was "rampant" in Afghan units, putting U.S. troops in emotionally charged and challenging situations. The review focused on the implementation of the Leahy law, which restricts the U.S. government from assisting a foreign security unit found to be in gross violation of human rights.

The law allows for exceptions when the defense secretary determines that continuing support to a problematic unit meets a national security concern. The SIGAR suggested that Congress might want to eliminate that exception, and the Pentagon balked when it viewed a draft of the SIGAR's report.

"The draft report does not fully convey the unique and difficult challenges of im-

plementing the Leahy law in Afghanistan consistent with both the U.S. commitment to human rights and U.S. national security objectives in Afghanistan," Jeddiah Royal, a Pentagon official, wrote in a May 2017 response included in the report. "In particular, the draft report does not reflect an understanding of the challenges faced by U.S. forces in Afghanistan in developing and sustaining the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces."

The Pentagon resisted when lawmakers asked the SIGAR to launch the investigation, an aide to Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the namesake of the Leahy law, told The Washington Post in November. The Defense Department argued the SIGAR did not have the jurisdiction to examine the issue, even though it has routinely dissected U.S. work in Afghanistan, said the aide, Tim Rieser.

A Defense Department inspector general

report released in November concluded that U.S. troops have been inadequately trained to report sexual abuse in Afghanistan for years. The Pentagon watchdog made several recommendations, including building a central database of gross violations of human rights, and noted that the Defense Department has historically decided to withhold funding over human rights violations in Afghanistan about once a year.

However, the Pentagon insisted that did not suggest that Congress consider eliminating the defense secretary's ability to make exceptions to the Leahy law on the basis of U.S. national security. The SIGAR report states that data provided by the Pentagon showed that as of Aug. 12, 2016, the Defense Department was tracking 75 gross human rights violation allegations. Seven involved child sexual assault.

MIDEAST



Turkish soldiers prepare their tanks to enter combat and join a military offensive on a Kurdish-held enclave in northern Syria at a staging area in Hatay province, Turkey, near the border with Syria.

Kurds: US focused on operations against ISIS

FROM FRONT PAGE

"That the Kurds are a burdensome ally in Syria, and Washington has thought little about a post-ISIS Syria policy, was hinted at last week when a spokesman announced the formation of a 30,000-man border security force," Syria expert Rodger Shanahan wrote on Tuesday for the Lowy Institute think tank.

Last week, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson backtracked, saying the U.S. wasn't training a border force but rather a contingent focused on securing areas where ISIS has been cleared. Turkey's leaders have said they are unconvinced, and last weekend Turkish fighter planes began bombing across their southern border as they began their push into the burgeoning Kurdish enclave.

It remains unclear whether the Turks intend to push farther east in Syria, where Kurdish forces operate with U.S. troops. Continued U.S. backing of Kurdish forces also could result in new threats from Turkey to expel the U.S. from Incirlik Air Base and perhaps risk direct conflict, some experts warn.

"If this week has already taught us one thing, it's that U.S. policy in Syria is full of holes," Shanahan said.

The U.S. has tried to walk "a very fine line" regarding Syria, according to the Soufan Group, a New York-based security firm.

"As the battlefield shrinks in Syria, the line has become near impossible to maintain, and the U.S. will likely have to either dramatically scale back its support of the Kurdish rebels — which would be seen as yet another U.S. betrayal of the few groups that have consistently supported and helped the U.S. in Syria and Iraq — or risk indirect and even direct conflict with Turkey, a fellow NATO member," the Soufan Group said in a recent report.

Washington's relationship with Turkey has been tense for several years, partly over the U.S. partnership with Kurdish fighters. Meanwhile, Turkey has drawn closer to Moscow with a \$2.5 billion deal to acquire Russia's sophisticated S-400 missile defense

system, despite concerns from NATO members.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, speaking to reporters Monday, said Turkey has legitimate security concerns along its border and that high-level talks were taking place between Washington and Ankara to deal with them.

"Turkey is a NATO ally," Mattis said. "It is the only NATO country with an active insurgency inside its borders. And Turkey has legitimate security concerns."

Mattis described the developing force in Syria as a well-armed police unit rather than a border force.

"This area that we're talking about right now is heavily Sunni Arab, so you're going to see a lot of Sunni Arabs, obviously, in the ... police force," Mattis said. "But ... there's other ethnic minorities and other people mixed in there."

Thus far, Washington has focused its efforts in Syria on operations against ISIS, but other powers have emerged as brokers in what post-ISIS Syria will look like.

Russia, which has stabilized the government of longtime ally Bashar al-Assad, maintains a military force in the country and also has established closer ties with Turkey. Iran's influence also has grown in tandem with its commercial interests in the country and its military backing of Assad.

"Turkey, Russia, and Iran have the greatest influence in Syria and are united in a desire to block U.S. interests in the country," the Soufan Group said.

Mattis, who offered no indication that the U.S. intends to break with Kurdish elements, said the U.S. remains focused on ensuring that gains against ISIS hold.

Still, when asked by a reporter if the U.S. would be obliged to provide security guarantees to Syrian Democratic Forces should they come under attack in the future, Mattis said, "No."

"Right now, our forces, we are reducing," Mattis said.

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US: Russia to blame for chemical attacks

Associated Press

PARIS — Russia is ultimately to blame for any use of chemical weapons in Syria, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Tuesday amid reports of a suspected chemical attack this week near the capital, Damascus.

Tillerson said Russia is violating a 2013 agreement it made with the U.S. on the removal of chemical weapons from Syria and is helping the Syrian government breach the Chemical Weapons Convention, which bans such use.

The secretary of state said Rus-

sia must stop vetoing U.N. Security Council resolutions on holding those who use such weapons accountable. If it cannot support a future Security Council resolution to that end, it should abstain, Tillerson said.

"There is simply no denying that Russia, by shielding its Syrian ally, has breached its commitments to the United States as a framework guarantor" of the 2013 agreement, Tillerson said.

Russia's failure to resolve the chemical weapons issue in Syria calls into question its relevance to the resolution of the overall crisis.

At a bare minimum, Russia must stop vetoing and at least abstain on future UNSC resolutions on this issue," he said.

Tillerson spoke in Paris, where the U.S., France and 22 other countries launched a new organization aimed at identifying and punishing anyone who uses chemical weapons.

The group plans to publish information about chemical attacks to name and shame perpetrators and eventually sanction them. U.N. efforts to punish perpetrators in Syria have failed, repeatedly blocked by Russia.

Turkey urged to show restraint in northern Syria

BY PHILIP ISSA
Associated Press

BEIRUT — France's top diplomat and the U.S. defense secretary Tuesday urged Turkey to exercise restraint in its battle against a Syrian Kurdish militia as the Turkish military pressed its operations in north Syria for the fourth straight day.

Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said intense fighting be-

tween Turkish troops and a U.S.-backed Kurdish militia in recent days is a sign that new conflicts could erupt in the region as Islamic State is defeated.

He warned that without a political solution to the multi-sided Syrian civil war, the region could again explode with conflicts "just as dramatic" as the war on ISIS.

His statement mirrored comments by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, who warned the fighting was distracting from the war on terrorism and disrupting humanitarian relief efforts.

"The violence in Afrin disrupts what was a relatively stable area of Syria," he said while traveling in Asia. "It distracts from the international efforts to ensure the defeat of ISIS."

Turkey's Operation Olive Branch against the Kurdish People's Protection Units, or YPG, in north Syria is straining relations with its NATO allies. The U.S. military is a partner of the YPG and operates bases in Kurdish-controlled territory in north Syria.

Turkish police have arrested at least 55 people in a sweep against alleged supporters of the YPG inside Turkey, according to Ankara's agency.

Also on Tuesday, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu announced a second Turkish soldier was killed in Operation Olive Branch.

Turkey said the YPG — a group it considers a terrorist organization — is an extension of an outlawed Kurdish rebel group that it is fighting inside its own borders, and it has found common cause with Syrian opposition groups who view the YPG as a counterrevolutionary force in Syria's intricate civil war.

Turkey said it aims to create a 20-mile deep "secure zone" in Afrin, a Kurdish-controlled enclave on its border.

As Turkey's military and allied Syrian forces pressed their campaign, Turkey shelled a city in northeastern Syria, said a spokesman for the YPG.

Nuredine Mehmed said Turkey fired on Qamishli and other towns along the Syrian-Turkish border Tuesday, calling it a diversion from the main campaign in Afrin, which lies along a separate part of the frontier. There were no reported casualties.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights Monitoring group said at least 24 civilians, 24 Kurdish fighters and 25 Turkish-backed Syrian militiamen have been killed in the clashes in Afrin since Saturday. Most of the civilians were killed in Turkish airstrikes, which have targeted towns and cities in the enclave.

The Observatory said the Syrian government had closed the roads out of Afrin to civilians seeking safety. Mehmed said the civilian population has so far not shown any intention to leave.

The war in Syria has drawn in militaries from around the world as a crackdown against anti-government protests in 2011 spiraled into a conflict with global dimensions. At least 400,000 people have been killed and half the country's population has been displaced in the war.

Attack: Seriousness of injuries to Americans remains unclear

FROM FRONT PAGE

Afghan security forces said the standoff ended Sunday when they killed the last of the militants. More than 150 people were rescued or escaped during the siege, including 41 foreigners. Some hid in bathtubs or under mattresses as the attackers roamed the hotel's hallways killing people.

It was unclear how seriously the injured Americans were wounded. In addition to the Americans killed in the attack, the group plans to publish information about chemical attacks to name and shame perpetrators and eventually sanction them. U.N. efforts to punish perpetrators in Syria have failed, repeatedly blocked by Russia.

Word of the American deaths came as Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said an investigation is underway to find out how the attackers got into the building so easily.

Najib Danish, spokesman for the ministry, said Tuesday that security forces also defused a vehicle

full of explosives near the hotel after the siege ended.

NATION

Senators strike deal to reopen government after 69 hours

BY ALAN FRAM,
ANDREW TAYLOR
AND ZEEK MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a bill reopening the government late Monday, ending a 69-hour display of partisan dysfunction after Democrats reluctantly voted to temporarily pay for resumed operations. They relented in return for Republican assurances that the Senate will soon take up the plight of young immigrant "Dreamers" and other contentious issues.

The vote set the stage for hundreds of thousands of federal workers to return on Tuesday, cutting short what could have become a messy and costly impasse. The House approved the measure shortly thereafter, and Trump later signed it behind closed doors at the White House.

But by relenting, the Democrats prompted a backlash from immigration activists and liberal base supporters who wanted them to fight longer and harder for legislation to protect from deportation the 700,000 or so younger immigrants who were brought to the country as children and now are here illegally.

Democrats climbed onboard after two days of negotiations that ended with new assurances from Senate Majority Leader Mitch

McConnell that the Senate would consider immigration proposals in the coming weeks. But there were deep divides in the Democratic caucus over strategy, as red-state lawmakers fighting for their survival broke with progressives looking to satisfy liberals' and immigrants' demands.

Under the agreement, Democrats provided enough votes to pass the stopgap spending measure keeping the government open until Feb. 8. In return, McConnell agreed to resume negotiations over the future of the dreamers, border security, military spending and other budget debates.

If those talks don't yield a deal in the next three weeks, the Republican promised to allow the Senate to debate an immigration proposal — even if it's one crafted by a bipartisan group and does not have the backing of the leadership and the White House, lawmakers said. McConnell had previously said he would bring a deal to a vote only if Trump supported it.

Sixty votes were needed to end the Democrats' filibuster, and the party's senators provided 33 of the 81 the measure got. Eighteen senators, including members of both parties, were needed. Hours later the Senate passed the final bill by the same 81-18 vote, sending it to the House, which quickly voted its approval and sent the measure on to Trump.

The plan is far from what many activists and Democrats hoped when they decided to use the budget deadline as leverage. It doesn't tie the immigration vote to another piece of legislation, a tactic often used to build momentum. It also doesn't address support for an immigration plan in the House, where opposition to extending the protections for the "dreamers" is far stronger.

The short-term spending measure means both sides may wind up in a shutdown stalemate again in three weeks.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer lent his backing to the agreement during a speech on the chamber's floor. "Now there is a real pathway to get a bill on the floor and through the Senate," he said of legislation to halt any deportation efforts aimed at the younger immigrants.

The White House downplayed McConnell's commitment, and said Democrats caved under pressure. "They blinked," principal deputy press secretary Raj Shah told CNN. In a statement, Trump said he's open to immigration deal that is "good for our country."

Immigration activists and other groups harshly criticized the deal reached by the Democratic leadership.

Cristina Jimenez, executive director of United We Dream, said the members of the group are



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., left, and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., lead other senators out of the chamber after a bipartisan vote to reopen the government at the Capitol in Washington on Monday.

"outraged." She added that senators who voted Monday in favor of the deal "are not respecting Trump; they are enablers."

Other groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union expressed disappointment and shared similar criticism.

A block of liberal Democrats — some of them 2020 presidential hopefuls — stuck to their opposition. Sens. Elizabeth Warren, of Massachusetts; Dianne Feinstein, of California; Kirsten Gillibrand, of New York; and Cory Booker of New Jersey, voted no, as did Independent Bernie Sanders, of Vermont.

The short-term funding measure includes a six-year reautho-

ization of the children's health insurance program, which provides coverage for millions of young people in families with modest incomes.

It also includes \$31 billion in tax cuts, including a delay in implementing a tax on medical devices.

Although the Democrats initially dug in on a demand for an immigration deal, they had shifted to blaming the shutdown on the incompetence of Republicans and Trump. The Democrats seemed sensitive to being seen by voters as willing to tie up government operations to protect immigrants in the U.S. illegally.

Dems face angry base, GOP has hard choices after deal

BY STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The first government shutdown of Donald Trump's presidency spanned 69 hours.

That was as long as Democrats could, or would, stand united against a Republican-backed temporary spending bill in pursuit of a plan to protect hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation.

When the high-stakes game of chicken ended Monday evening, liberal activists were furious, Republicans were giddy, and vulnerable Senate Democrats were quietly relieved.

The episode exposed familiar political vulnerabilities for both parties — although perhaps more painfully for Democrats.

"There are no winners. There are absolutely no winners. The question is who lost the most," said Republican pollster Frank Luntz.

Democrats' dilemma

In the short term at least, Senate Democrats — led by Minority Leader Chuck Schumer — were pounded Monday for giving into GOP demands in exchange for a promise from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to address immigration in the coming weeks. After two days of bickering and freezing up the U.S. government, Democrats signed off on a spending bill not dramatically different from the one on



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., heads to the chamber for a procedural vote aimed at reopening the government Monday.

the table Friday.

No one was angrier than immigration activists, union officials and other liberal leaders, who, just a few days earlier, had helped rally Senate Democrats to take a risky political stand to protect young immigrants known as "Dreamers" from deportation.

"Last week, I was moved to tears of joy when Democrats stood up and fought for progressive values and for Dreamers. Today, I am moved to tears of disappointment and anger that Democrats blinked," said Frank Sharry, the executive director of

the immigration advocacy group America's Voice.

Far beyond Washington, disappointment and depression rippled through the Democratic universe, which had been filled with excitement and energy just last month after a historic Senate victory in Alabama.

"They need to be called out. It was a failure of Democratic leadership," said Christine Neumann-Ortiz, executive director of Wisconsin-based immigrant rights advocacy group Voces de la Frontera. She added, "I do not think the fight is over."

If such disappointment persists and deflates enthusiasm in the November midterm elections, it could be a long-standing problem for Democrats. But ultimately Democratic senators bet they had bigger worries, namely turning off disaffected voters in Trump country.

The longer the shutdown went on, the more problematic it would become for those Democrats.

"In my focus groups, the public blamed the Democrats, even as they were angry at Donald Trump," Luntz said.

Republicans' hard choices

Yet the GOP success may be short-lived.

The legislation that ended the shutdown will fund the federal government through Feb. 8 — for less than three weeks. If there is no immigration deal by then, McConnell said he would allow the Senate to bring up legislation addressing the fate of those 700,000 young immigrants in the country illegally who had voluntarily enrolled in the

Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, which Trump ended last fall.

There is no more explosive issue for Republicans than immigration.

Many conservatives dismiss any legal protection for the young immigrants as "amnesty." And while some Senate Republicans have promised to support a DACA fix, the issue is far more divisive in the House, where a relatively small group of hard-line conservatives wield significant clout.

House conservatives in 2013 helped kill legislation that would have provided a pathway to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the country illegally.

The Senate's "Gang of Eight" that crafted the bill — a group that included Republicans Marco Rubio, of Florida; Lindsey Graham, of South Carolina; and Arizona's Jeff Flake and John McCain — is still hated by many conservatives, many of Trump's most passionate supporters among them.

Long-term, there will be tremendous pressure on Republicans, particularly Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan, to come to an agreement on behalf of those thousands of "Dreamers," said Democratic polster Paul Maslin.

"Trump's been all over the map on this, and Paul Ryan is cowed by his majority," Maslin said, predicting Republicans aren't capable of coming up with a legislative fix for DACA and may think they have no reason to do so. He added, "I'm not sure they are sufficiently nervous about what Latino voters are capable of doing to them in November."

NATION

Pa. Democrats cheer congressional map ruling

BY MARC LEVY
Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down the state's widely criticized congressional map Monday, granting a major victory to Democrats who alleged the 18 districts were unconstitutionally gerrymandered to benefit Republicans and setting off a scramble to draw a new map.

In the Democratic-controlled court's decision, the majority said the boundaries "clearly, plainly and palpably" violate the state's constitution and blocked the boundaries from remaining in effect for the 2018 elections with just weeks until dozens of people file paperwork to

run for Congress.

The justices gave the Republican-controlled Legislature until Feb. 9 to pass a replacement and Democratic Gov. Tom Wolf until Feb. 15 to submit it to the court. Otherwise, the justices said they will adopt a plan in an effort to keep the May 15 primary election on track.

The decision comes amid a national tide of gerrymandering cases, including some that have reached the U.S. Supreme Court.

Democrats cheered the decision to toss out a Republican-drawn map used in three general elections going back to 2012. The map, they say, gave Republicans crucial help in securing 13 of 18 seats in a state where registered Democratic voters outnumber Republicans 5 to 4.

"We won the whole thing," said David Gersch, of the Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer law firm in Washington, which is helping represent the group of registered Democrats who filed the lawsuit last June.

The defendants — top Republican lawmakers — said they would ask the U.S. Supreme Court this week to step in and put the decision on hold. The state court's decision lacks clarity, precedent and respect for the constitution and would introduce chaos into the state's congressional races, they said.

The Senate's top Republican lawyer, Drew Crompton, called the timeline to draw new districts "borderline unworkable," but said Republicans will do everything they can to comply.

The decision has immediate implications for the 2018 election, meaning that 14 sitting members of Congress and dozens more people are planning to run in districts they may no longer live in. The deadline to file paperwork to run in primaries is March 6.

It also has implications for GOP control of Congress, since only Texas, California and Florida send more Republicans to the U.S. House than Pennsylvania.

Republicans who controlled Pennsylvania's Legislature and governor's office following the 2010 census broke decades of geographical precedent when redrawing the map, producing contorted shapes, including one dubbed "Goofy kicking Donald Duck."

They shifted whole counties and cities into different districts in an effort to protect a Republican advantage in the congressional delegation.

They succeeded, as Republicans in the delegation grew from 12 to 13, even as Pennsylvania lost a seat to account for the state's relatively slow population growth.

The Pennsylvania court's six-paragraph order did not lay out the rationale for striking down the 2011 congressional map or which provisions of the constitution the justices believed it violated. That rationale could follow in the coming days.

The court's five Democrats all agreed that the state's congressional map is unconstitutional. The two Republican justices dissented.

Strong earthquake in Alaska prompts brief tsunami scare

BY MARK THIESSEN
AND BECKY BOHRER
Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A powerful earthquake struck off an island in the Gulf of Alaska, prompting a tsunami threat that sent the state's residents along the southern coast and western Canada fleeing for higher ground just after midnight Tuesday.

After a few intense hours, the tsunami warning was canceled, allowing people to return home from shelters. There were no immediate reports of damage, not even on Kodiak Island, the closest land to the epicenter of the magnitude-7.9 quake.

For Alaskans accustomed not only to tsunami threats but also to regular drills, the early morning alert that made cellphone alarms go off still created some fretful moments. The phone message reads: "Emergency Alert. Tsunami danger on the coast. Go to high ground or move inland."

Keith Perkins got the phone alert and later heard the sirens going off.

in his southeast Alaska hometown of Sitka. He said people on Facebook were chattering back and forth about whether this was real or not and what they should do.

Given the magnitude of the earthquake, Perkins said he thought it best to head to the high school, a tsunami evacuation point, even though in the past he felt his home was at a "high enough spot."

"I figured I'd probably just better play it safe," he said.

The magnitude-7.9 earthquake was recorded in the Pacific Ocean at 12:32 a.m. about 170 miles southeast of Kodiak, home to one of the nation's largest Coast Guard bases.

The tremor prompted the tsunami warning stretching thousands of miles along Alaska's southern coast, from Attu in the Aleutian Islands to Canada's border with Washington state. Kodiak is located about 200 miles south of Anchorage, the state's largest city, which was not under a tsunami threat.

Elsewhere in the United States, Washington state, Oregon, Califor-



MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, HOMER (ALASKA) NEWS/AP

Abdulai Salam and his daughter, Mina, wait for the all-clear about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday at Homer High School during a tsunami alert for Homer, Alaska. The city issued an evacuation order after an earthquake hit.

nia and Hawaii were under tsunami watches, which eventually were lifted. Officials in Japan say there was no tsunami threat there.

People reported on social media that the quake was felt hundreds of miles away in Anchorage. Reports varied about how long the quake's shaking lasted, depending

on where you were.

In the popular cruise ship town of Seward, about 110 miles south of Anchorage, fire chief Eddie Athey said the quake felt like a gentle rattle and lasted for up to 90 seconds.

"It went on long enough that you start thinking to yourself, 'Boy, I hope this stops soon because it's

just getting worse,'" Athey said. Athey said residents retreated to higher ground and left on the only road out of the city, which is at the southern end of Alaska's Kenai Peninsula. He described it as a controlled evacuation and compared it to folks driving home from a holiday fireworks show.

Cosby performs in public for first time since '15

Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Bill Cosby performed in public for the first time since a sex abuse scandal embroiled him in 2015, joking that he "used to be a comedian" and playing with a jazz band in his hometown as a retrieval loom in his criminal sexual assault case.

Cosby, 80, took the stage for about an hour Monday night at a Philadelphia jazz club for his first show since May 2015. Before a friendly crowd, he told stories, honored old friends and finished by leading the band in a set, first using his mouth to scat in place of a missing horn section and then taking a turn at the drums.

Cosby, handing the drumsticks off to the bass player's 11-year-old son, asked if the boy knew who he was and then told him.

"I used to be a comedian," Cosby deadpanned. Cosby reminisced about his childhood, telling of

how when he was 4 he grilled a relative about the impending birth of his brother. He mimicked his Uncle William, who took a swig from a cocktail before answering every question — including whether a stork was really delivering the baby to his parents.

Cosby arrived at the jazz club on the arm of his spokesman, Andrew Wyatt. He wore a gray hoodie bearing the phrase "Hello Friend," something his late son, Ennis Cosby, often would say.

He posed for photos with friends, including a couple he honored at the start of his set. They all grew up in the same public housing complex.

Cosby is scheduled for an April 2 retrial on charges he drugged and molested a woman at his suburban Philadelphia home in 2004. He has pleaded not guilty and remains free on bail.

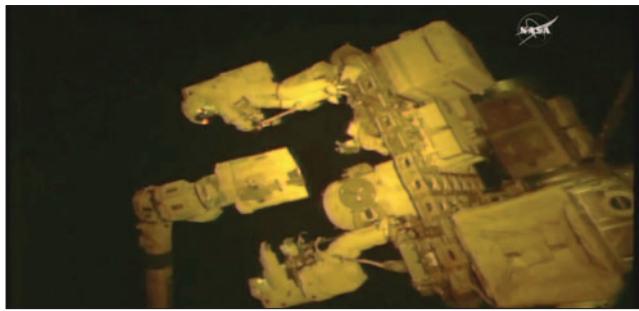
His first trial ended with a hung jury last year. Jury selection for his retrial will start March 29.



MICHAEL R. SISAK/AP

Bill Cosby plays the drums at the LaRose Jazz Club in Philadelphia on Monday. It was his first public performance since his last tour ended amid protests in May 2015.

NATION



PHOTOS BY NASA TV/AP

NASA astronauts Mark Vande Hei, top, and Scott Tingle work outside the International Space Station on Tuesday to give the robot arm a new hand.

Astronauts give robot a hand in spacewalk

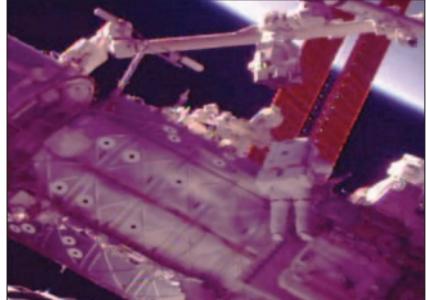
Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Spacewalking astronauts gave a hand to the International Space Station's big robot arm Tuesday.

As the federal government geared back up 250 miles below, NASA astronauts Mark Vande Hei and Scott Tingle floated outdoors to install the new mechanical gripper.

Because of the lingering effects of the government shutdown, the spacewalk got started in the morning without live coverage on NASA TV. An on-air message simply stated, "We regret the inconvenience." Nearly an hour into the spacewalk, however, NASA TV came alive and began broadcasting the event with typical blow-by-blow commentary.

Space station operations were largely unaffected by the three-day shutdown. Considered essential personnel, Mission Control kept watch as usual at Johnson



Vande Hei, left, and Tingle work outside the International Space Station on Tuesday.

Space Center in Houston.

Vande Hei performed a similar spacewalk last October when he replaced the first of two original hands on the Canadian-built arm. This second new hand will go on the opposite end of the 58-foot arm, able to move like an inchworm by grabbing hold of special fixtures.

The bulky bundle of latches — more than 3 feet long and weighing more than 440 pounds — needed to be replaced because of wear and tear. It's been in orbit, grabbing cargo capsules and per-

forming other chores, since 2001.

Tingle had to use extra muscle

to release a stubborn bolt securing the spare mechanical arm.

"Nice work," Vande Hei said.

"And the work goes wild," chimed in Mission Control.

Next, the spacewalkers wrested the old, degraded hand from the robot arm.

It was the first spacewalk for Tingle, who arrived last month, and the third for Vande Hei.

Vande Hei will go back out Monday with another astronaut to finish the job.

Major gun show held in Las Vegas

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

The gun industry is holding its biggest annual trade show this week just a few miles from where a gunman slaughtered 58 people at a concert outside his high-rise Las Vegas hotel room in October using a display case worth of weapons, many of them fitted with bump stocks that enabled them to mimic fully automatic fire.

What exactly will be among the thousands of products crammed into the exhibition spaces at the National Shooting Sports Foundation's SHOT Show convention, running from Tuesday through Friday, will be a bit of a mystery, shielded from the public and, this year, members of the general-interest media.

One thing is known: Slide Fire, the leading manufacturer of bump stocks, a once-obscure product that attracted intense attention in the aftermath of the deadly mass shooting, won't be among the exhibitors.

The Texas-based company hasn't said why it's not on the roster of more than 1,700 exhibitors, although it was last year. The company also isn't on the list of those attending this year's National Rifle Association annual meeting or other prominent gun trade shows.

In the aftermath of the Las Vegas massacre Oct. 1, Slide Fire had so much trouble keeping up with demand it temporarily stopped taking orders. It has since resumed.

From purely a public relations standpoint, it wouldn't be a surprise at all if bump stocks just sort of dis-

appeared this year," said Robert Spitzer, chairman of political science at the State University of New York at Cortland and an expert on firearms and the Second Amendment. "That's a PR no-brainer."

Still, the convention floor is likely to have plenty of other devices that gun control advocates have taken aim at in recent years: accessories that make it easier to carry a firearm, shoot it or reduce the noise it makes.

SHOT Show has been held for 40 years, half that time in Las Vegas, and this year's gathering was scheduled well before the bloodshed last fall.

It is not open to the general public; the only people who can attend are those with direct ties to the industry.

Student kills 2, wounds many in rural Ky. school

Associated Press

BENTON, Ky. — A 15-year-old student opened fire with a handgun inside a rural Kentucky high school Tuesday morning, killing two of his classmates, injuring 19 and sending hundreds fleeing for safety.

Police were seen leading a teenager away in handcuffs and said the suspect will be charged with murder. It was the nation's first fatal school shooting of 2018.

Students ran for their lives out of Marshall County High School, jumping into cars and running down a highway, some not stopping until they reached a McDonald's restaurant more than a mile away.

"They was running and crying and screaming," said Mitchell Garland, who provided shelter to between 50 and 100 students inside his nearby business. "They was just kids running down the highway. They were trying to get out of there."

A half-dozen ambulances and numerous police cars converged on the school, along with officers in black fatigues carrying assault rifles. Federal authorities responded, and Sen. Mitch McConnell sent staffers. Gov. Matt Bevin rushed from the Capitol to the scene. Parents left their cars on both sides of an adjacent road, desperately trying to find their teenagers.

Two 15-year-olds were killed. A girl died at the scene, and a boy died later at a hospital, the governor said, adding that all of the victims are believed to be students.

The shooter will be charged with murder and attempted mur-

der, Bevin said. Police did not release his identity, nor did they describe a motive.

"This is a wound that is going to take a long time to heal. For some in this community will never fully heal," Bevin said.

Five of the wounded were flown about 120 miles to Nashville, Tenn., Vanderbilt University Medical Center, spokeswoman Tavia Smith said.

Kentucky State Police have no reason to suspect anyone else, detective Jody Cash told the Murray Ledger & Times.

The attack marked the year's first fatal school shooting, according to data compiled by the Gun Violence Archive, which relies on media reports and other information.

Bevin said earlier in a statement that "It is unbelievable that this would happen in a small, close-knit community like Marshall County."

Marshall County High School is about 30 minutes from Heath High School in Paducah, Ky., where a 1997 mass shooting killed three and injured five. Michael Carneal, then 14, opened fire there about two years before the fatal attack at Columbine High School in Colorado, ushering in an era when mass school shootings have become much more common.

Meanwhile, in the small North Texas town of Italy, a 15-year-old girl was recovering Tuesday after police said she was shot by a 16-year-old classmate in her high school cafeteria on Monday, sending dozens of students scrambling for safety.



Nolan Hammer looks at a gun at the 2016 Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show in Las Vegas. The largest gun industry trade show is taking place in Las Vegas through Friday just a few miles from the October deadly mass shooting.

JOHN LOCHER/AP

NATION

Hawaii's governor couldn't log into Twitter during alert

By TRAVIS M. ANDREWS
The Washington Post

Minutes after the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency mistakenly sent a missile alert at 8:07 a.m. on Jan. 13 — terrifying residents and visitors across the state — some officials, such as Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, rushed to Twitter to reassure everyone it was a mistake.

But one Twitter account was deafeningly silent for 17 minutes — that of Hawaii Gov. David Ige. Though Ige was informed by the state's adjutant general that the alert was false two minutes after it was sent, he waited until 8:24 a.m. to tweet, "There is NO missile threat."

On Monday, after he gave the State of the State address in which he avoided the subject of the missile alert fiasco, reporters demanded an explanation for that long silence.

Ige's answer: He couldn't log into Twitter.

"I have to confess that I don't know my Twitter account log-ons and the passwords, so certainly that's one of the changes that I've made," Ige said.

He also didn't post a correction to Facebook until 23 minutes after the alert went out.

I have to confess that I don't know my Twitter account log-ons and the passwords, so certainly that's one of the changes that I've made.

David Ige
 Hawaii governor

and the passwords, so certainly that's one of the changes that I've made," Ige said.

He also didn't post a correction to Facebook until 23 minutes after the alert went out.

Ige said he has taken steps to ensure it won't happen again. Namely, he saved his Twitter information on his cellphone.

"I've been putting that on my phone so that we can access the social media directly," Ige said.

The missile alert fiasco highlighted flaws both in human and technological in the state's civil defense warning system. The false alert was sent out because an employee clicked on the wrong option on an old-fashioned dropdown menu of links.

As The Washington Post's Fred

utes after the errant warning went out.



JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER/AP

Hawaii Gov. David Ige answers questions during a hearing in Honolulu on Friday.

Basharb reported: "The menu, which triggers alerts, contains a jumble of options, ranging from Amber alerts to tsunami warnings to road closures. Some of them, such as 'High Surf Warning North Shores,' are in plain English."

"Others, including the one for a missile attack, 'PACOM (CDW-STATE ONLY' use shorthand initials. (PACOM refers to the United States Pacific Command, based in Hawaii.)

"And the menu contained no ballistic missile defense false alarm option — which has now been added."

Town beset by commuter traffic closes off streets

By DAVID PORTER
Associated Press

LEONIA, N.J. — A small town near the world's busiest bridge is putting up the "keep out" sign for motorists seeking a shortcut to it, the latest example of the effects navigation apps are having on communities located near major checkpoints.

As a response to apps like Waze and Apple Maps that reroute some of the tens of thousands of vehicles headed to the George Washington Bridge each morning, Leonia, N.J., on Monday started barring the use of side streets to nonresidents during the morning and evening commutes. Violators could face \$200 fines.

Local officials and police have said the decision isn't a hasty one and that they've done extensive studies of traffic patterns.

Police Chief Thomas Rowe said studies have shown that more than 2,000 vehicles often pass through town from just one of the three exits off Interstate 95. The town has about 9,200 residents and a police force of 18.

The three exits off a major highway and the proximity to the bridge, which connects Fort Lee, N.J., and New York City, put the town "in a unique situation here," Rowe said. "We are a small town in a very busy area with a very small police force."

Other towns have taken similar steps. Fremont, Calif., north



DAVID PORTER/AP

A Do-Not-Enter street sign stands in Leonia, N.J., where local officials are trying to reduce traffic congestion headed to the nearby George Washington Bridge into New York.

of San Jose, implemented turn restrictions during commuting hours, and several towns in the Boston area have redirected traffic or are seeking permission to do so.

Maria Favale, who has lived in Leonia for nearly 30 years, said she tried to get to her church one morning through the congested downtown and nearly gave up.

Standing outside the borough hall Monday, she noticed a marked difference: fewer cars.

"I don't know if it's because it's the first day and people are worried about tickets, but it's been great," Favale said.

More than 140,000 vehicles cross the bridge each day, most during commuting hours, and when there is an accident, lane

closure or other problem, it has a ripple effect. On one such day in 2014, a woman in Leonia was struck and dragged by a school bus and later died.

Leonia is about 2 miles from the George Washington Bridge, where aides to Republican then-Gov. Chris Christie were accused of deliberately closing access lanes and causing traffic jams in 2013 to spite the Democratic mayor of Fort Lee for not endorsing him.

Christie denied any knowledge of the scheme, but three people close to him either pleaded guilty or were convicted at trial.

Leonia's traffic problems have been exacerbated in the last several years as navigation apps have exploded in popularity. The apps are programmed to send motorists to faster routes, not necessarily with regard for where those routes go, Rowe said.

"Sometimes, I think they need to do a better job of seeing whether a road is suitable for cutting through traffic," he said.

That said, Rowe said Waze has been "extremely helpful and extremely cooperative" and has changed its app to reflect the road closures.

A Waze spokeswoman didn't return a message seeking comment Monday.

Rowe said his officers initially will give motorists warnings but eventually will begin writing tickets.

Manning 'crashes' NY party thrown by far right

By KYLE SWENSON
The Washington Post

Hours after hundreds of thousands of pink-hatted marchers pounded down New York streets to protest President Donald Trump's first year in office, a different sort of one-year anniversary party kicked off in a Hell's Kitchen nightclub last Saturday.

The "Night for Freedom" was billed as a "gathering of patriots and political dissidents who are pored with mainstream political events," in the words of Mike Cernovich, the far-right activist and conspiracy theorist who organized the party. The \$139 general admission fee got attendees hors d'oeuvres and tickets for three drinks. DJ duo Mike 'n' Coeks handled the music. As the event shifted into high gear, it featured an all-star lineup of fringe internet celebrities, Trump backers and media trolls, including reportedly Proud Boy founder Gavin McInnes, Project Veritas' James O'Keefe and the Gateway Pundit's Lutin Wintrich.

But an unexpected guest, neither a Trump die-hard nor internet provocateur, ended up dominating the news coverage of the event. Chelsea Manning, a former Army intelligence officer who spent seven years in prison for leaking classified documents to WikiLeaks, was spotted "smiling and socializing with attendees" early in the evening, Buzzfeed reported. "I (expletive) crashed!" Manning, a current candidate for a Maryland U.S. Senate seat, told a New York Observer reporter at the coat check. Later in the night, Manning posted her own tweet acknowledging she had "crashed the fascist/white supremacist hate brigade party," she wrote. "[I]earned in prison that the best way to confront your enemies is face-to-face in their space."

But a backlash quickly kicked up on the left, many of whom seemed to feel the pro-Trump fest was antithetical to the positions Manning has voiced since her release in May 2017 after President Barack Obama commuted her 35-year sentence. What followed was an overheated internet tug-of-war between opposite sides of the political spectrum, each accusing the other of co-opting Manning, while her intentions were relentlessly picked apart.

Further gasoline was poured on the fire when journalist Yashar Ali dug up a photo from December featuring Manning and other prominent far-right internet figures, including Cernovich, Wintrich, Jack Posobiec and Gateway Pundit contributor Cassandra Fairbanks.

"Chelsea Manning at a CERNOVICH EVENT???" "Chelsea Manning at a Women's March, Chelsea Manning is attending a party held by an ultra right wing bigot and nazi sympathizer," another said.

NATION

Ohio man who trained with terrorists sentenced

By MATT ZAPOTOSKY
The Washington Post

A Columbus, Ohio, man who trained with terrorists overseas and plotted to kill American troops upon his return to the United States was sentenced Monday to 22 years in federal prison, a spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office said.

Abdiharaman Sheik Mohamud, 26, had pleaded guilty to providing material support to terrorists and giving a false statement involving international terrorism in August 2015. Court documents say Mohamud admitted to traveling in early 2014 to Syria in an attempt to join his brother, a fighter with the Nusra Front terrorist group, and give him \$1,000 and a communication device.

Mohamud made it to the country with the funds, court records

show, and while there, he was trained by Nusra Front in weapons and tactics, including how to enter a structure and kill people inside.

Mohamud's brother, Abdifatah Aden, was killed in June 2014, and there is no evidence he and Mohamud ever met face to face, court documents filed by prosecutors say. Mohamud returned to the United States that same month and began to recruit others for a terrorist plot — possibly involving killing military personnel in Texas, the documents say.

It is unclear how far along he got in his effort. In September, court documents filed by prosecutors say, Mohamud and three other men went to a central Ohio shooting range, where Mohamud taught two of them how to shoot a handgun. But Mohamud's defense

attorney wrote in court papers that by the end of November 2014, Mohamud had "completely abandoned" any plans for terrorism.

The FBI arrested Mohamud in February 2015, and court documents say he lied to law enforcement

about his time overseas.

Prosecutors had asked that Mohamud be sentenced to 23 years in federal prison. Defense attorneys had not requested a specific penalty but noted that Mohamud was remorseful for what he had done. In court filings, Mohamud's

defense attorneys wrote that Mohamud was heavily influenced by his brother and fully radicalized when he traveled to Syria, though once home, he "realized the immoral and illegal nature of terrorist ideology."

"Mr. Mohamud already appreciates the seriousness of his conduct and feels nothing but remorse for his willingness to embrace a violent and dangerous ideology," Mohamud's defense attorneys wrote. "This self-awareness will ensure that Defendant never again poses a threat of danger to others, to the United States."

Mohamud, who was born in Somalia and came to the United States just before his second birthday, is a naturalized citizen, though prosecutors wrote in court papers that obtaining that status was meant to further his and his

brother's terrorist plan.

Prosecutors wrote that Mohamud, who has been a legal permanent resident since 1993, had begun the naturalization process only after communicating with at least one person linked to a terrorist organization, and he sent his brother a message pledging to join him as a fighter overseas in September 2013. That was months before he took his oath of allegiance to the United States at a naturalization ceremony in February 2014.

Prosecutors wrote that Mohamud had posed a picture showing armed fighters of Islamic State in March 2013. He wrote on his naturalization application that he had in no way been associated with a terrorist organization, nor had he advocated the overthrow of any government by force or violence.



Mohamud

Puerto Rico's plan to privatize power spurs residents' hopes, fears

By DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — The announcement that Puerto Rico's governor is moving to privatize the U.S. territory's public power company has many on the island of 3.3 million people asking whether this will finally bring them more affordable electric bills and more reliable service.

More than 30 percent of customers are still without electricity over four months after Hurricane Maria, and many blame that and previous blackouts on the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, whose infrastructure averages roughly 45 years old, compared with 18 years on the U.S. mainland.

Many also wonder who, if anyone, would be willing to buy a power company that has a \$9 billion debt load, filed for bankruptcy last year and faces long-standing accusations of mismanagement and corruption.

But Puerto Ricans, in a flurry of exchanges across social media after Monday's announcement, seemed to agree that any change would be a good one, though they remained wary that the utility could fall into the wrong hands.

"Some people have faith that privatization will improve everything, but it's not a guarantee," said Puerto Rico economist Jose Caraballo. "If a good deal isn't hammered out, Puerto Rico can end up worse than it is."

Gov. Ricardo Rossello said he will be working with legislators in the coming days to draft a measure that would allow the government to sell the utility's assets in a process expected to take 18 months.

The majority leader in Puerto Rico's House of Representatives said he would back the measure,

while the president of the island's Senate said he first needed to see the legislation to ensure it would serve the interests of all Puerto Ricans.

Power bills on the island have long been double the average of those on the U.S. mainland, in part because imported fuel supplies three-fourths of the energy consumed in Puerto Rico, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Rossello said privatizing the power company would both improve service and lower power bills, and he predicted it would lead to more investment in renewable energy projects.

"With this transformation of PREPA, you will cease being its hostage," he told Puerto Ricans. "The deficient and obsolete system of generation and distribution of energy is one of the great impediments to our economic development."

Sen. Juan Dalmau, whose party supports independence for Puerto Rico, said privatization would not necessarily translate into efficiency or savings.

"The message is a manipulation of the justified hopelessness of an island facing a lack of power after the hurricane," he said.

A spokesman for the utility did not return a message for comment.

Rossello said the electrical grid is not designed for Puerto Rico's current needs, noting that the greatest demand exists in the northern part of the island, while the main generation plants are in the south.

In addition to its aging infrastructure, PREPA has lost 30 percent of its employees in the last five years, 86 percent of whom worked in maintenance, he added.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke speaks at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Oxon Hill, Md., last February.

Jury: Ex-sheriff did not violate man's free speech

By IVAN MORENO
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Former Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke did not violate a man's free speech when taunting Facebook posts after detaining him at an airport last year for shaking his head at Clarke while boarding a flight, a federal jury has concluded.

In a civil lawsuit against Clarke, Daniel Black argued he received hateful messages and was fearful after Clarke called him a "snowflake" online and said Black "wouldn't be around to witness" if the then-sheriff really wanted to harass him. Clarke made the comment after Black complained to the county that the sheriff had his deputies detain and question him for 15 minutes after he got off the plane in Milwaukee.

Jurors deliberated nearly three hours before deciding Monday night that Clarke's posts were not enough to chill Black's future speech. Clarke resigned on Aug. 31 to join a political action committee that supports President Donald Trump.

Black said he shook his head at Clarke last January on the flight from Dallas to Milwaukee because he added.

Clarke was wearing Cowboys gear when they were playing the Green Bay Packers in the playoffs.

Black at one point became teary-eyed while testifying Monday, saying he would never file another complaint against an elected official because the incident left him so rattled. He said he sued last year because he needed "someone to say this is wrong."

Although Black was not arrested or cited, his attorneys argued that Clarke's actions — particularly his social media taunts — were retaliatory and threatening enough to silence criticism of the sheriff.

"I felt guilty; I felt scared that I had a target on my back," Black testified, recalling one post in particular on the sheriff's official Facebook site.

Clarke wrote on Facebook: "Cheer up, snowflake ... if Sheriff Clarke were to really harass you, you wouldn't be around to witness about it."

In his closing arguments, Bohl told jurors that Black's TV interviews and social media posts about the incident showed that Clarke's comments did not stop Black from exercising his free speech rights "abundantly" and that "he got his 15 minutes of fame."

Rand Paul's neighbor may get 21 months' imprisonment

By BRUCE SCHREINER
Associated Press

FRANKFORT, Ky. — Federal prosecutors will seek a 21-month prison sentence for the man accused of tackling U.S. Sen. Rand Paul in the Kentucky lawmaker's yard, according to a court document that says the man "had enough" when he saw the Republican stacking more brush onto an existing pile.

The court document filed by federal prosecutors underscored that the motive behind the attack stemmed from a dispute about yard maintenance between the two Kentucky neighbors.

In comments to police, neighbor Rene Boucher indicated the attack was not politically motivated, the court document said. Instead, it had to do with a property dispute that boiled over, it said.

Boucher has been charged with assaulting a member of Congress as part of a federal plea agreement that surfaced last Friday.

Boucher has signed the plea agreement, but no date has been set for his guilty plea for the attack on Paul, according to Josh J. Minkler, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Indiana.

Paul suffered several broken ribs in the attack and later developed pneumonia. Paul has since said he's recovering well from the assault.

Minkler has said the charge is one "we take very seriously. Those who choose to commit such an act will be held accountable."

The audio of Paul's 911 call to report the attack was released Monday. In it, Paul said he had been assaulted by a neighbor while he was moving his yard and requested that police come by to investigate. Paul's breathing seemed a bit labored, but he otherwise sounded calm.



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NATION

Study: Less screen time equals happier teens

By MELISSA HEALY
Los Angeles Times

A precipitous drop in the happiness, self-esteem and life satisfaction of American teens came as their ownership of smartphones rocketed from zero to 73 percent and they devoted an increasing share of their time online.

Coincidence? New research suggests it is not.

In a study published Monday in the journal *Emotion*, psychologists from San Diego State University and the University of Georgia used data on mood and media culled from roughly 1.1 million U.S. teens to figure out why a decadeslong rise in happiness and satisfaction among U.S. teens suddenly shifted course in 2012 and declined sharply over the next four years.

Was this sudden reversal a response to an economy that tanked in 2007 and stayed bad well into 2012? Or did it have its roots in a very different watershed event: the 2007 introduction of the smartphone, which put the entire online world at a user's fingertips?

Smartphones were a technological innovation embraced like no other. By 2012, half of Americans (and roughly 37 percent of teens) owned one. By 2016, 77 percent of all Americans carried an iPhone or something like it, including at least 73 percent of teens.

Evidence of their effect on teens has been all over the map. Some studies show that the greater the time spent engaged in online content and social media, the unhappier the child. Others have found evidence that participation in social media plays a positive role in teens' self-images.

That's led some to suggest there's a "sweet spot" of social media use. Where it lies is anybody's guess.

In the new study, researchers tried to find it by plumbing a trove of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders' responses to queries on how they felt about life and how they used their time.

They found that between 1991 and 2016, adolescents who spent more time on electronic communication and screens—social media, texting, electronic games, the inter-

net—were less happy, less satisfied with their lives and had lower self-esteem. TV watching, which declined over the nearly two decades they examined, was similarly linked to lower psychological well-being.

By contrast, adolescents who spent more time on nonscreen activities had higher psychological well-being. They tended to profess greater happiness, higher self-esteem and more satisfaction with their lives.

While these patterns emerged in the group as a whole, they were particularly clear among eighth- and 10th-graders, the authors found. "Every nonscreen activity was correlated with greater happiness, and every screen activity was correlated with less happiness," they wrote.

The survey that 1.1 million adolescents answered between 1991 and 2016 (called Monitoring the Future) doesn't track a single group of kids from year to year. So the researchers could draw no conclusions about the evolution of an individual teen's happiness and self-esteem on the basis of how they spent their time.

But by looking at group snapshots of kids taken in any given year, they could discern consistent patterns—correlations—between how kids spent their time and how satisfied they were with themselves and their lives.

Gathered together, those snapshots also produced a clear picture: Adolescents' psychological well-being was lowest in years when, as a group, they spent more time online, on social media and reading news online, and when more Americans owned smartphones. Psychological well-being was highest in years when adolescents spent more time with their friends in person, reading print media and on exercise and sports.

"The sudden shift in well-being around 2012-13 suggests that the trends in adolescent time use reached a tipping point around that year, perhaps due to the market saturation of smartphones in that period," wrote the authors, Jean M. Twenge and Gabriele Martin, of San Diego State University, and W. Keith Campbell, of the University of Georgia.

Sessions questioned in Russia probe

By ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Jeff Sessions was interviewed for hours last week in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation, the Justice Department confirmed Tuesday.

The interview came as Mueller is investigating whether President Donald Trump's actions in office, including the firing of FBI Director James Comey, constituted obstruction of justice. Mueller is also investigating contacts between Trump's 2016 campaign and Russia.

Sessions is thought to be the highest-ranking Trump administration official to be interviewed by Mueller's team.

He is seen as a potentially important witness given that Trump initially said he fired Comey last May at the recommendation of the Justice Department.

At the time, the White House released a memo from Sessions' deputy, Rod Rosenstein, faulting Comey for his handling of the Hillary Clinton email investigation and appearing to lay the groundwork for his dismissal.

Trump has since said he was thinking of "the Russia thing"

when he fired Comey.

Sessions recused himself from the Russia investigation in early March after acknowledging that he had had two previously undisclosed encounters with the Russian ambassador during Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. He said it would be improper for him to oversee a probe into a campaign for which he was a vocal and prominent supporter.

Rosenstein appointed Mueller, a former FBI director, to take over the Russia investigation one week after Comey was fired.

Sessions' interview was first reported by The New York Times.



KAMRAN JEBREILI/AP

Trucks are uploaded at Al Maktoum International Airport in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2015. The U.S. aviation security agency said it has issued an emergency order requiring additional screening of airline cargo on flights from the Mideast.

5 missing after drilling rig explodes in Oklahoma

Associated Press

QUINTON, Okla. — Five people are missing after a fiery explosion ripped through an eastern Oklahoma drilling rig Monday, sending plumes of black smoke into the air and leaving a derrick crumpled on the ground, emergency officials said.

More than 20 employees were at the natural gas well site when the blast was reported around 8:45 a.m., Pittsburg County Sheriff Chris Morris said. Aerial footage showed several fires were still burning by midday on the rig and other equipment. The derrick, a towering metal structure above the well, collapsed onto the ground.

Emergency crews were pulled away after other explosions at the site, where several tanks are also



CHRISTINA GOODVOICE, KOTV NewsOn6.com/AP

In this photo provided from a frame grab from Tulsa's KOTV/NewsOn6.com, fires burn at a drilling rig near Quinton, Okla., on Monday.

located, Pittsburg County Emergency Management Director Kevin Enloe said.

"Pretty much everything that is on location is on fire," Enloe said.

A statement Monday night from emergency management said the fire was out.

The explosion occurred west of the town of Quinton, about 100 miles southeast of Tulsa.

Enloe said about 17 workers were pulled from the site following the blast, including one who suffered minor burns and was treated at the scene.

"Most everybody was taken off the site and taken to a secure site here in Quinton," said Morris, the sheriff. He said workers were "pretty shook up."

"It's a pretty dramatic deal to go through," he said.

countries.

Airlines the TSA said are affected by the order are EgyptAir, operating out of Cairo International Airport; Royal Jordanian, operating out of Queen Alia International Airport; Saudia, operating out of King Abdul-Aziz International Airport and King Khalid International Airport; Qatar Airways, operating out of Doha International Airport, and Emirates and Etihad, operating out of Dubai International Airport and Abu Dhabi International Airport.

EgyptAir previously stopped accepting cargo shipments on flights to the U.S. at the request of American authorities. Under the requirements of the order, airlines are supposed to provide certain information to U.S. customs officials on the shipments "at the earliest practical point" before loading the cargo. The shipment information is then compared with information the U.S. has on terrorist threats.

US orders more screening for cargo flights from Mideast

By JOAN LOWY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. authorities issued an emergency order Monday requiring additional screening of cargo on flights departing for the United States from five Mideast countries, citing a threat of terrorism.

The Transportation Security Administration order is aimed at preventing terrorist attacks in response to "persistent threats to aviation," the TSA said in a statement. The countries falling under this order are Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Qatar and United Arab Emirates.

The countries were chosen because of "demonstrated intent by terrorist groups to attack aviation from them," the statement said.

The TSA said most of the requirements of the emergency order are already being carried out voluntarily by airlines in some countries, but didn't identify the

WORLD



PHOTOS BY BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

Residents who live within the 5½-mile radius around the Mount Mayon volcano are evacuated in Legazpi city, Albay province, Philippines.

Philippine volcano spews lava fountains; thousands evacuate

By BULLIT MARQUEZ
Associated Press

LEGAZPI, Philippines — The Philippines' most active volcano spewed fountains of red-hot lava and massive ash plumes anew Tuesday in a dazzling but increasingly dangerous eruption that has sent more than 6,000 villagers fleeing to evacuation centers.

Lava fountains gushed up to 2,300 feet above Mount Mayon's crater, and ash plumes rose up to 19 miles Monday night. At least three major blasts followed Tuesday, including an explosion at nightfall that was capped by one of the most massive lava displays since the volcano started acting up more than a week ago, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

"We couldn't sleep last night because of the loud rumblings. It sounded like an airplane that's about to land," Quintin Velarde, 59, told The Associated Press at an evacuation center in Legazpi city, where he took his wife, children and grandchildren Tuesday.

Despite the danger, he said he needed to return to his village, about 5 miles from the erupting volcano, to take his cow and water buffalo to safety. A few minutes later, the volcano belched a massive column of grayish ash that punched through white clouds into the blue sky.

"There it goes again," Velarde said, his family huddled near him.

Authorities warned a violent eruption may occur in hours or days, characterized by more rumblings and pyroclastic flows — superheated gas and volcanic debris that race down the slopes at high speeds, vaporizing everything in their path.

After Monday's explosion, officials raised Mayon's alert level to 4 on a scale of 5, and the danger zone was expanded to 5 miles from the crater, requiring thousands more residents to be evacuated, including at least 12,000 who returned to their homes last week as Mayon's rumblings temporarily eased and then scrambled back to the emergency shelters this week.

At least 56,217 people were taking shelter in 46 evacuation camps Tuesday, and army troops and police were helping move more villagers from their homes, officials said.

Authorities struggled to prevent villagers from sneaking back to check on their homes and farms and to watch a popular cockfight in Albay's Santo Domingo town despite the risks and police patrols and checkpoints, said Cedric Daep, a provincial disaster response official.

In a sign of desperation, Daep told a news



The volcano spews red-hot lava as seen from Legazpi on Tuesday.

conference that he has recommended electricity and water supplies be cut in communities within the no-go zones to discourage residents from returning.

"If pyroclastic flows hit people, there is no chance for life," Daep said. "Let us not violate the natural law. Avoid the prohibited zone, because if you violate the punishment is the death penalty."

The daytime eruptions have plunged nearby villages into darkness and sent lava, rocks and debris cascading down Mayon's slopes toward the no-entry danger zone. There have been no reports of deaths or injuries. Airplanes have been ordered to stay away from the crater and ash-laden winds, and several domestic flights have been canceled.

Volcanic ash fell Monday in more than a dozen towns in coconut-growing Albay and nearby Camarines Sur province, with visibility heavily obscured in a few towns because of the thick gray ash, Jukes Nunez, another Albay provincial disaster response officer, said by telephone.

"It was like nighttime at noon. There was zero visibility in some areas because the ash fall was so thick," Nunez said.

Pence says US poised to exit Iran nuke deal

By KEN THOMAS
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Vice President Mike Pence reiterated to Israeli leaders on Tuesday that the Trump administration plans to pull out of the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal unless the pact is amended.

The remarks came as Pence wrapped up his visit to Israel. On Monday, he repeatedly referred to Jerusalem as Israel's capital, speaking alongside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. He also used a high-profile speech to the parliament to announce plans to speed up the timing of the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem — moving it from Tel Aviv — by the end of 2019.

On Tuesday, Pence met with Israeli President Reuven Rivlin and vowed the United States would counter the Iranian nuclear threat. He then headed to the most emotional part of his visit — a tribute to the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial and a visit to the Western Wall. He was to depart the Holy Land later in the day.

Rivlin praised Pence's speech to parliament and his role in pushing for the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

"You are a mensch," Rivlin told a smiling Pence.

Pence also repeated the administration's plan to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal, which has been vociferously opposed by Israel, unless the pact is enforced and amended. He noted U.S. efforts to gain support from European allies to address what he described as flawed parts of the agreement, adding that President Donald Trump "has made clear" the U.S. will leave the nuclear deal if that doesn't happen.

"We are sending a signal to our European allies that the time has come for changes in the Iran nuclear deal," Pence said, sitting alongside Rivlin. "Punitive sanctions will be available for many years to come to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon, and you have our com-

mitment to work closely with our allies around the world to achieve that."

Pence's trip to the Middle East also included stops in Egypt and Jordan.

Pence aides said the vice president would be making "a personal visit," in the same manner in which Trump prayed at the Western Wall during his visit to Israel last year. But in late 2017, Trump officials said that while the ultimate borders of the holy city must be resolved through negotiations, they could not "envision any situation under which the Western Wall would not be part of Israel."

During Pence's speech to the Knesset on Monday, several Arab lawmakers shouted and raised signs that said, "Jerusalem is the capital of Palestine" before they were forcibly removed from the plenum.

Palestinian leaders have assailed the Jerusalem move and refused to meet with Pence. Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas snubbed the vice president by overlapping with Pence in Jordan during the weekend but not meeting with him.

The Palestinians have pre-emptively rejected any peace proposal floated by the Trump administration amid concerns it would fall far below their hopes for an independent state in the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza, lands captured by Israel in the 1967 war.

Abbas' ruling Fatah party called for a general strike on Tuesday to protest Pence's visit and Trump's recognition of Jerusalem. The strike is meant to include shops, public transportation, banks and most of the public sector aside from schools and hospitals.

Fatah official Jamal Muheisen told the Voice of Palestine that the strike marks "the beginning of our popular, peaceful struggle" against the Jerusalem move.

Jerusalem's status has been a central issue in the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Egypt arrests presidential hopeful

By HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

ported the arrest on his Twitter account but also gave no details.

With Amman out of the race and possibly facing a court-martial, only one serious presidential hopeful is left in the field: prominent rights lawyer Khaled Ali, whose own candidacy could be at risk if his September conviction for making an obscene hand gesture in public is upheld on appeal, rendering him ineligible.

Ali, who was chief of staff of the military until 2012, had only an outside chance against el-Sissi, but his participation would have lit up a race, the outcome of which is virtually a foregone conclusion. The election is scheduled for March 26-28, with runoffs the following month if needed.

The move by the military did not come as a complete surprise, given that the powerful military establishment would have loathed seeing two of its graduates slug it out in an election contest, regardless of the overwhelming odds in favor of el-Sissi.

Two other presidential hopefuls have been forced to quit the race.

Former Prime Minister and air force Gen. Ahmed Shafiq said he did not think he was the "ideal" man to lead the nation after days of harsh criticism by the pro-el-Sissi media. The other is former lawmaker Mohammed Anwar Sadat, who said he quit the race partially because he feared for the safety of his supporters.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: EMT dies after ambulance crashes

IN PERU — Authorities said an emergency medical technician died after the ambulance he was riding in crashed into a car and rolled in northern Indiana.

State police said a preliminary investigation found the 26-year-old woman driving the ambulance fell asleep at the wheel before running a red light.

Police say Mousa Chaban, 32, of Mishawaka was in the back of the ambulance and died of his injuries. Two people in the car were also injured.

The ambulance was transporting a 5-month-old patient and the child's mother from a South Bend hospital to a hospital in Indianapolis at the time of the crash. Police said they weren't hurt.

Study: State's sea lion population has tripled

CA SAN JOSE — The population of California sea lions has tripled in the past 40 years to more than 250,000.

The Mercury News reported National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration biologists said in a study released last week that strict environmental laws to protect marine mammals have worked so well that California sea lions have become the first marine mammal that lives along the entire West Coast to recover to its natural carrying capacity.

The study said California sea lions have exploded in number, jumping from an estimated 88,924 in 1975 to 257,606 in 2014.

First responders rescue dog who fell through ice

RI EAST GREENWICH — First responders in Rhode Island put their life-saving skills to the test over the weekend, rescuing a dog that fell into icy water at a park.

East Greenwich officials responded to the scene at Scallotown Park, where Bethany Verret said her 1-year-old dog, Archie, got trapped after falling through thin ice.

Fire officials said Verret was right to not attempt to rescue Archie on her own.

Mom accused of leaving child in car, shoplifting

FL VERO BEACH — A Florida woman was arrested after police alleged she left her child in a car while she shoplifted items from a market.

The Miami Herald reported that Sarah Wilmot, 30, was arrested Jan. 13 after police were alerted that a small child was alone in an SUV at a supermarket parking lot.

According to an arrest report, sheriff's deputies broke into the car to help the crying child and called emergency medical personnel. Wilmot was located in the market.

While searching her, police say they found methamphetamine laced with cocaine. In her bra, they found facial cream, clear nail polish and an air deodorizer.

THE CENSUS

\$60

The amount two North Carolina men allegedly asked for in a fake kidnapping scheme. Capt. James Rowell, with the Pender County Sheriff's Office, said David Eugene Lee and Christopher Logan Halton made up a fake story that Lee had been kidnapped by drug dealers who threatened to kill him if Lee's mother didn't pay them \$60. The pair were charged with several offenses including obtaining property by false pretenses.



HANS PENNINK/AP

Slippery slope

Daniel Ballew, of Rochester, N.Y., climbs a section of icy Pitchoff Cliff in Keene, N.Y., on Sunday.

Police say man shot neighbor's 'annoying' cat

CT OXFORD — A Connecticut man police said fatally shot his neighbor's cat was charged with animal cruelty.

State police said Craig Middendorf, 48, of Oxford was also charged with unlawful discharge of a firearm and first-degree recklessness.

Middendorf told police he thought the cat was a stray and it was annoying him.

The cat belonged to a tenant in the other half of the duplex in which he lives.

Police investigating after human foot found

VA SPRINGFIELD — Police are investigating after a resident of northern Virginia found a partially decomposed human foot in a backyard.

Fairfax County police said a resident of Springfield called Saturday to report possible human

remains on the property. Police said the medical examiner's confirmed it was a human foot. The race or gender of the remains was not immediately clear.

Police searched other yards in the area for other human remains, but found only bones that appear to be from an animal.

College wants vultures to leave campus

OH GRANVILLE — An Ohio liberal arts college is hanging effigies in trees and using pyrotechnics to move destructive vultures off campus.

The Columbus Dispatch reported vultures have caused at least \$50,000 damage at Denison University in the last year by picking at roof membranes and at caulking around vents. Vulture droppings left around air-handling units have created sticky debris.

Initial efforts to scare off the birds appear to be working. Only nonlethal methods can be used

because vultures are a protected migratory bird species.

Suspect who fled found eating at restaurant

SC LANCASTER — Authorities said a suspect who fled investigators was later arrested eating at a Bojangles restaurant.

The Herald of Rock Hill reported Gabriel L'Ambiance Ingram was sought on suspicion of taking a baby Thursday from a woman he used to date. The baby was later found safe.

Authorities tracked his Ingram's cellphone signal, and a deputy spotted him driving in Lancaster County. Authorities said Ingram crashed into a ditch and fled on foot.

On Friday morning, police received a report of a man fitting Ingram's description at a Bojangles restaurant, and he was arrested.

He was being held on charges including failing to stop for law enforcement.

Doughnut-eating champ accused of Dunkin' theft

NC ELIZABETH CITY — A North Carolina man who made headlines when he was arrested for break-ins after winning a doughnut-eating contest has been arrested again. This time he's accused of stealing from a doughnut shop.

The Virginian-Pilot newspaper reported Bradley Hardison, 27, of Elizabeth City was charged Thursday with stealing from a Dunkin' Donuts in November.

An Elizabeth City Police Department statement said Hardison is charged with felonies including breaking and entering and larceny. It wasn't clear if he helped himself to any doughnuts.

The Virginian-Pilot reported that in 2014, Hardison won a doughnut-eating contest put on by Elizabeth City police while he was wanted on suspicion of several break-ins.

From wire reports

FACES



A crowded field

'Shape of Water' leads Oscar nods, among 9 pics up for best picture

By JAKE COYLE

Associated Press

Guillermo del Toro's lavish monster romance "The Shape of Water" fished out a leading 13 nominations, Greta Gerwig became just the fifth woman nominated for best director and "Mudbound" director of photography Rachel Morrison made history as the first woman nominated for best cinematography in nominations announced Tuesday for the 90th Academy Awards.

Oscar voters put forward nine best-picture nominees: "The Shape of Water," Martin McDonagh's rage-fueled comic drama "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri," Gerwig's nuanced coming-of-age tale "Lady Bird," Jordan Peele's horror sensation "Get Out," Jim Wright's Winston Churchill drama "Darkest Hour," Steven Spielberg's timely newspaper drama "The Post," Christopher Nolan's World War II epic "Dunkirk," Luca Guadagnino's tender love story "Call Me By Your Name" and Paul Thomas Anderson's twisted romance "Phantom Thread."

"The Shape of Water" landed just shy of tying the record of 14 nominations by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land." Del Toro's dark fantasy scored a wide array for nominations for its cast (Sally Hawkins, Richard Jenkins, Octavia Spencer), del Toro's directing, its sumptuous score (by Alexandre Desplat) and technical craft.

The cascading fallout of sexual harassment scandals throughout Hollywood put particular focus on the best director category, which for many is a symbol of gender inequality in the film industry. Gerwig follows only Lina Wertmüller, Jane Campion, Sofia Coppola

and Kathryn Bigelow, the sole woman to win for "The Hurt Locker."

Also nominated for best director was Bechdel. He becomes the fifth black filmmaker nominated for best director, and the third to helm a best-picture nominee, following Barry Jenkins last year for "Moonlight." He's also the third person to receive best picture, director and writing nods for his first feature film after Warren Beatty ("Heaven Can Wait") and James L. Brooks ("Terms of Endearment").

"What's the opposite of the Sunken Place?" said Peele on Twitter.

Though all of the acting front-runners — Frances McDormand ("Three Billboards"), Gary Oldman ("Darkest Hour"), Allison Janney ("I, Tonya"), Sam Rockwell ("Three Billboards") — landed their expected nominations, there were surprises.

Denzel Washington ("Roman J. Israel, Esq.") was nominated for best actor, likely eclipsing James Franco ("Disaster Artist"). Franco was accused of sexual misconduct, which he denied, just days before Oscar voting closed.

The category's other nominees were a returning veteran — Daniel Day-Lewis for what he's said is his final performance ("Phantom Thread") — and a pair of breakouts: Timothee Chalamet ("Call Me By Your Name") and Daniel Kaluuya ("Get Out").

Christopher Plummer, who replaced Kevin Spacey in Ridley Scott's "All the Money in the World," also sneaked into the best supporting actor category. Plummer, at 88, is the oldest acting nominee ever.

Perhaps most unexpected was the broad success of Paul Thomas Anderson's "Phantom Thread," which scored not only nods for Day-Lewis and Lesley Manville, for best supporting actress, but also nominations for best picture, Anderson's direction, costume design

and Johnny Greenwood's score.

"Three Billboards" scored seven nominations Tuesday, behind only "The Shape of Water" and Christopher Nolan's "Dunkirk." The World War II epic, thus far little-honored in Hollywood's awards season, emerged especially strong with Oscar voters, taking eight nominations, many of them in technical categories. It's Nolan's first nomination for best director.

Though the favorites are largely independent films, a number of blockbusters fared well, including five nods for "Blade Runner 2049" four for "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," three for "Baby Driver," two for "Beauty and the Beast" and two for Pixar's "Coco," which is up for best animated feature. Still, Patty Jenkins' "Wonder Woman," which became the highest grossing movie ever directed by a woman, failed to receive any Oscar nods despite an awards campaign.

But the box-office hit that carved the most unlikely path to the Oscars was "Get Out." It opened back in February on Oscar weekend, and went on to pocket \$254.7 million worldwide. It scored four nominations.

Though many minorities were still absent from the acting categories, the film academy, which has worked to diversify its membership, put forward a field of nominees almost as diverse as last year: Four black actors — Washington, Kaluuya, Spencer and Mary J. Blige ("Mudbound") — are among the 20 acting nominees.

Meryl Streep, who stars as Washington Post publisher Katherine Graham in "The Post," notched her 21st Oscar nomination. She was joined for best actress by McDormand, Hawkins, Saoirse Ronan ("Lady Bird") and Margot Robbie ("I, Tonya").

Last year's Oscars broadcast, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, drew 32.9 million viewers for ABC, a four percent drop from the prior year.

AP exclusive: New rules govern handling of Oscar envelopes

By SANDY COHEN

Associated Press

After taking responsibility for the epic best picture fiasco at the Oscars last year, Tim Ryan of PwC got down to business.

He grilled the partners who made the gaffe, then personally reached out to the dozens of people affected by it: The show's producers, presenters and stage managers, as well as the filmmakers behind "La La Land" and "Moonlight."

In the months that followed, PwC met with the academy to come up with new protocols and safeguards to prevent such a blunder in the future. Ryan revealed those reforms to The Associated Press.

"One of the most disappointing things to me was all the great work that had been done, not only last year but over the last

83 years, around accuracy, confidentiality and integrity of that process," he said. "And where we got it wrong was on the handing over of the envelope."

Oscar voting procedures and the tabulation of nominees and winners won't change, Ryan said. Instead, reforms focus on envelope rituals. Ryan said he will be personally involved with Oscar operations this year as PwC's U.S. chairman and senior partner.

Other changes:

■ The addition of a third balloting partner, who will sit with Oscar producers in the show's control room. Just like the balloting partners stationed on either side of the Dolby Theatre stage, this person will have a complete set of winners' envelopes and commit the winners to memory.

■ The two partners who worked on last

year's Academy Awards have been replaced, though Ryan confirms that both still work for PwC. The new stage-side partners overseeing the envelopes will include Rick Rosas, who previously worked in that post for 14 years, and colleague Kimberly Bourdon.

■ A new formal procedure is in place for when envelopes are handed over. Both the celebrity presenter and a stage manager will confirm that they've been given the correct envelope for the category they are about to present.

■ All three balloting partners will attend show rehearsals and practice what to do if something goes wrong.

■ PwC partners are prohibited from using cellphones or social media during the show.

Ross clarifies 'black-ish' pay gap reports

Tracee Ellis Ross has clarified reports that she may be backing out of "black-ish."

The actress told to Twitter Jan. 20 to confirm that despite chatter that suggested otherwise, she has not made any threats to cut down her screen time on the ABC sitcom amid a pay discrepancy with co-star Anthony Anderson.

"There has been a lot of conversation and speculation the last few days regarding my blackish salary. I was in a renegotiation, like many actors find themselves in during the fourth season of a successful show," she wrote.

"I wanted to be compensated in a way that matches my contribution to a show that I love for many reasons, including the opportunity that it allows me to reshape what it is to be a fully realized black woman on TV."

Ross was referring to a Hollywood Reporter article that claimed the actress was considering cutting back her screen time if she didn't get a raise that would put her on par with Anderson, who is reportedly earning significantly more money.

The claim — part of a larger story about women fighting Hollywood's pay gap — suggested Ross planned to make up the pay difference by appearing on other TV shows. The report speculated that the reason Anderson was earning more could be because he also serves as an executive producer, and has been involved in the show since the early development stages.

Other news

■ The nominees for the 38th annual Gold Raspberry Awards — better known as The Razzies — were announced Monday, highlighting the very worst Tinsel Town had to offer in 2017. Michael Bay's "Transformers: The Last Night" earned the distinction (er, honor?) of scoring the most nominations with nine, including worst picture, worst actor and worst director. Other notable nominees include "Fifty Shades Darker," which scored eight nominations, and a nod for Oscar winner Jennifer Lawrence, for her turn in the controversial "mother!" The lucky winners will be announced March 3.

■ Don Diamond is retiring from touring after he says he was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Days shy of his 77th birthday, the rock legend is canceling his tour dates in Australia and New Zealand for March. He was on his 50th anniversary tour. The Rock and Roll Hall of Famer offered his "sincere apologies" to those who planned to go to his shows and says he plans to still write, record and work on other projects "for a long time to come."

■ Don Imus, the cantankerous radio host whose career was temporarily derailed when he made racist and sexist remarks, is returning from his morning show. WABC-AM says Imus' last morning drive time show on New York-based station will be March 29. On Twitter, the show announced: "Turn out the lights ... the party's over!"

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Amazon opens store with no cashiers, registers

BY MANUEL VALDES
AND JOSEPH PISANI
Associated Press

SEATTLE — No cashiers, no registers and no cash — this is how Amazon sees the future of store shopping.

The online retailer opened its Amazon Go concept to the public Monday in Seattle. It lets shoppers take milk, potato chips or ready-to-eat salads off its shelves and just walk out. Amazon's technology charges customers after they leave.

"It's such a weird experience because you feel like you're stealing when you go out the door," said Lisa Doyle, who visited the shop Monday.

Amazon employees have been testing the store, at the bottom floor of the company's Seattle headquarters, for about a year. Amazon.com Inc. said it uses computer vision, machine-learning algorithms and sensors to figure out when people are grabbing off its store shelves.

The store is yet another sign that Amazon is serious about expanding its physical presence. It has opened more than a dozen bookstores and taken over some in some Kohl's department stores, and it bought Whole Foods last year, giving it 470 grocery stores.

But Amazon Go is unlike its other stores. Shoppers enter by scanning the Amazon Go smartphone app at a turnstile, opening plastic doors. When an item is pulled off of a shelf, it's added to that shopper's virtual cart. If the item is placed back on the shelf, it is removed from the virtual cart.

Not everyone can shop at the store. People must have a smartphone and a debit or credit card they can link to be charged. Amazon said families can shop together with just one phone scanning everyone in. Anything they grab



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

As an Amazon Go worker, left, looks on to offer assistance, Tadeo Klappenbach uses an Amazon Go app just put on his cellphone to enter the store with his five family members on Monday in Seattle.

from the shelf will also be added to the tab of the person who signed in. But don't help out strangers. Amazon warns that grabbing

an item from the shelf for someone else means you'll be charged for it.

There's little sign of the technology visible to customers, except for black boxes, cameras and a few tiny flashing green lights in the darkened, open ceiling above.

One shopper, Paul Fan, tested the technology by turning off his phone and taking items and putting them

in incorrect spots. The app was still able to tally up its items correctly.

"It's really smart," he said.

Want to return something? Returning a bottle of kombucha Monday didn't mean returning anything to the store — just clicking "return" on the receipt was supposed to make a refund appear soon. A customer service representative said to toss out or donate the item.

At 1,800 square feet, Amazon Go resembles a convenience store, except for a kitchen visible from the street where sandwiches and ready-to-cook meal kits are prepared. A small section features products from the Whole Foods 365 brand. There's no hot coffee or hot food, but microwaves are available for customers who want to warm something up. Beer and wine is in a cornered-off section where a staffer checks IDs before anyone enters.

Just being able to walk out and not interact with anyone was amazing.

Peter Gray
Amazon Go
shopper

while it worked on the technology and company employees tested it out. By lunchtime on day one, Amazon's no-lines hope was thwarted, at least outside the store. There were at least 50 people waiting to enter in a line that stretched around the corner.

Peter Gray, who said he typically shops online and avoids physical stores, stopped by Amazon Go on Monday morning after seeing it on Twitter.

"Just being able to walk out and not interact with anyone was amazing," he said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Jan. 24)	\$1.2577
British pound (Jan. 24)	£0.7951
Canada (Dollar)	CD\$1.41
Australia (Dollar)	AU\$1.71
Denmark (Krone)	DKR6.0617
Egypt (Pound)	£17.7132
South Africa (Rand)	SRP12.2800
Hong Kong (Dollar)	HK\$7.8180
Hungary (Forint)	252.21
Israel (Shekel)	₪3.4148
Malta (Euro)	€10.35
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3005
Norway (Krone)	7.8438
Poland (Zlote)	PLN5.07
Poland (2017)	PLN3.40
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	SGD1.37
South Korea (Won)	₩952
Switzerland (Franc)	CHF1.82
Thailand (Baht)	฿31.82

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	£1.3994
Canada (Dollar)	1.2471
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MARKET WATCH

Jan. 22, 2018

Dow Jones	142.88
	26,214.60
Nasdaq	71.65
	7,408.03
Standard & Poor's 500	22.67
	2,832.97
Russell 2000	7.54
	1,605.17

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 22, 2018

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Nasdaq	71.65
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	1,605.17

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate 4.50

Discount rate 2.00

Federal funds market rate 1.42

3-month bill 1.43

30-year bond 2.92

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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By AARON BLAKE
The Washington Post

Michael Wolff's book is littered with errors. He has a track record that suggests that embellishment is par for the course for him. He misrepresents his way into the White House. How much of his Donald Trump tell-all is embellished or misrepresented is unclear and may never be known.

All of which makes a new book about the early days of the Trump administration potentially even more damning than Wolff's.

The author of this one is Fox News Channel media critic Howard Kurtz, a former long-time reporter at The Washington Post. And as The Post's Ashley Parker writes, his book — "Media Madness: Donald Trump, the Press, and the War Over the Truth" — confirms and expands upon media accounts of the chaos happening behind the scenes at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Among the juiciest anecdotes:

■ Trump has a tendency to do whatever his advisers most strongly advise him against, and they even have a term for such behavior: his "defiance disorder."

■ He, out of nowhere, tweeted his decision to ban transgender people from the military before a scheduled meeting with then-Chief of Staff Reince Priebus to discuss his options on the matter. "Oh my God, he just tweeted this," Priebus reportedly said.

■ His aides were similarly blindsided by his accusation, also via Twitter, that President Barack Obama wiretapped Trump during the presidential campaign.

■ Trump was strongly advised not to dispatch then-press secretary Sean Spicer to dispute stories about Trump's inaugural crowd size and later admitted, "I shouldn't have done that."

We don't know what the overall tone of the book is and how many more such anecdotes it contains; Parker obtained ex-

cerpts of the book, which is due out Jan. 29. And she notes that those excerpts sometimes contain a more flattering portrayal of Trump than we see in Wolff's book and elsewhere in the media.

But that's also kind of the point. Kurtz is a Fox News host who has regularly offered a skeptical take on the media's treatment of Trump. No, he's not Sean Hannity, but he has shown a willingness to question the overarching narrative that Wolff's book sold — and which Kurtz's book now seems to confirm, at least to some degree.

A sampling: Kurtz has said that the media are too negative toward Trump and that reporters are too snarky on Twitter. He compared what he considered a quick avalanche of negative Trump coverage during the campaign to a "mob hit." He wrote a column last month arguing that journalistic mistakes had allowed Trump to "shred the media's credibility." He has defended Trump's Twitter attacks — even ones viewed as being sexist or advocating violence — as responses to the "battering" the president has taken. He has questioned why the media decided to resurface sexual harassment allegations against Trump after the #MeToo movement began.

And he has even argued that the media use too many anonymous sources when detailing what happened behind the scenes at the White House:

"Unnamed sources are way overused, especially by major news outlets. People are allowed to take cheap shots without their names attached. They are empowered to engage in political sniping from behind a curtain of anonymity. And top news executives know this."

The fact that the guy who made this argument early in Trump's presidency is now relaying anecdotes — apparently via anonymous sources — about chaos behind the scenes in the White House should not be lost on anyone.

Kurtz's media criticisms are necessarily

cherry-picked and incomplete, and he has at times sided against the things Trump has done in prosecuting his case against the media. But he also has been skeptical of the media's treatment of Trump and some of the narratives that have gone along with that.

It also remains to be seen just how many anecdotes like the ones above are in the book. I am somewhat skeptical that the full product will be anything amounting to a screed against the Trump White House; it seems more likely to dwell on his relationship with the media.

But what is described above is a president who is acting haphazardly and without the guidance of his aides, making major allegations and policy decisions on whims and — in the case of the inaugural crowd episode — deliberately pushing false narratives despite apparently knowing better.

The juiciest bit so far appears to be "defiance disorder," a term that could only arise out of repeated instances of Trump being perceived as acting not in the interest of the country but in the interest of defying those around him and trying to prove that he's smarter — or that he can get away with things that say he can't.

The fact that it's how Trump is described by an oft-sympathetic Fox News host makes it ring even truer.

A Suffolk University poll last month showed Fox News viewers have an unfavorable view of the media by a margin of 64-24. Another survey showed 76 percent of Republicans think the media makes up stories about Trump. And a Quinnipiac poll in November showed 91 percent of Republicans disapproved of how the media covered Trump and just 10 percent trusted the media more than Trump.

To the extent that this book paints a picture of which Fox News hosts and viewers have been skeptical, that's what could be really significant.

Democrats, your rants do not feed the base

By ED ROGERS
Special To The Washington Post

Anybody who watched the clumsy histrionics of Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., at last week's Senate grilling of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen had to feel a little sorry for him.

His overacting was on full display before the Senate Judiciary Committee and TV cameras. Booker posed, pretended, preened and generally made a fool of himself shouting at Nielsen about President Donald Trump's latest inexplicable comments regarding immigrants from certain parts of the world.

In releasing his almost-comical wrath, Booker's performance was so awful and cringe-worthy that I actually felt embarrassed for him. He even copped to weeping "tears of rage." The pain and drama of it all was just too much. And it's only January. The first presidential primary is more than two years away.

Booker's rant is only an early taste of many more to come from an increasingly clamorous field of Democratic presidential hopefuls. The Democratic Party is lurching irreparably to the left and has nothing to offer voters in 2020 other than outrage over Trump's latest tweet and the resurrection of tired policies that would return a booming U.S. economy to the stagnant Obama years.

It's too bad Nielsen couldn't have punctuated Booker's rant with a well-played stage yawn, giving his self-serving jeremiad the treatment it deserved.

Over the next two years, more Cabinet officials will be testifying before Congress and the Democratic Outrage Machine will pounce with their rehearsed lines and faux outrage.

Pro tip to the unlucky witnesses: Bring reading material. You may be there awhile. And, when pressed for a response, be ready with an appropriate line, such as, "I'm sorry. Was there a question in there?" Learn to swat imaginary flies and squint as you notice a spider on the head of the inquisitor.

Anyway, Booker may have been the most wincingly awful to watch, but he is by no means the only Democratic White House hopeful jockeying to position himself or herself as the most liberal, the most outraged, the most synthetically sincere of 2020 contenders. Booker's pinwheel-eyed fulmination takes its place alongside similarly shameful rants from Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren, Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez and other liberal one-uppers stumbling over themselves to prove their anti-Trump bona fides.

They may think they're feeding their Democratic base — after all, social media has turned anti-Trump outrage into an industry — but there are two problems with this assumption.

First, even the most rabid anti-Trumponists want substance from their Democratic candidates, and Booker and others have produced none.

Second, in their lemming-like scramble to the fringe, Democrats are abandoning the sensible center, where most Americans live and the position from which they wish their lawmakers to govern.

For months, I have written about the Democratic Party's dangerous lurch to the left. Beginning with support for the Sanders-backed promise of universal health care, Democrats are now in the position where the only way they can distinguish themselves and prevent an onslaught of attacks from their progressive base is to take on and embrace increasingly polarized leftist positions and a continuing stream of anti-Trump venom.

Even the liberal New York Times has taken note with the recent headline on an article by Sheryl Gay Stolberg, "Senate Democrats Make Hard Turn Left in Warming Up for 2020 Race."

The fact that Democrats are abandoning any notion of compromise and refusing to appeal to independent and moderate voters should come as no surprise. The party has been hijacked by radical voices from within, and what we are seeing now is only the beginning of what is to come.

Rogers is a political consultant and a veteran of the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush White Houses and several national campaigns.

OPINION

Dems got rolled; they can blame Obama

By MARC A. THIessen
Special To The Washington Post

The government shutdown is over. Democrats finally realized that closing the government over illegal immigration was a losing political battle. They created a needless crisis and got rolled. So who is to blame for their current predicament? Along with Charles Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, Democrats can put the blame squarely on the man who could have legalized the "dreamers" when he had the chance: Barack Obama.

During his 2008 campaign, Obama promised in a conversation with Univision anchor Jorge Ramos to make passing immigration reform one of his first legislative priorities, and even set a timetable: "I cannot guarantee that it is going to be in the first 100 days," he said. "But what I can guarantee is that we will have in the first year an immigration bill that I strongly support and that I'm promoting. And I want to move that forward as quickly as possible."

If he had wanted to act, he could have. Obama's party controlled the House, and Democrats had a 60-vote filibuster-proof majority. If Obama really wanted to pass either the Dream Act or comprehensive immigration reform, Republicans were powerless to stop him. But he didn't do it.

In a 2012 interview, Ramos called Obama on it. "At the beginning of your governing, you had control of both chambers of Congress, and yet you did not introduce immigration reform. And before I continue, I want for you to acknowledge that you did not keep your promise." Obama objected that he had made his promise "before the economy was on the verge of collapse. ... And so my first priority was making sure that we prevented us from going into a Great Depression." Ramos was having none of it. "It was a promise, Mr. President. ... And a promise is a promise. And with all due respect, you didn't keep that promise."

Obama's excuse was weak. In the midst



ROB CARR/AP

President Donald Trump, left, talks with former President Barack Obama on Capitol Hill in Washington prior to Obama's departure to Andrews Air Force Base, Md. Obama had promised to make immigration reform a priority during his 2008 campaign, but no legislation was passed.

of dealing with the economic crisis, he championed "Obamacare" and got other legislation passed. If passing immigration reform had been a real priority, he could have done it. And if he had, there would be no immigration impasse today.

Of course, Obama was not alone in failing to act. Who was in charge of the issue on Capitol Hill? On the Senate side, none

other than Schumer, D-N.Y. In 2009, Schumer succeeded Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., as chairman of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on immigration. In that role, The New York Times reported, "Mr. Schumer would take the point in pushing for passage of a new bill." But Schumer didn't push. Neither did Pelosi, D-Calif., who was speaker of the House at the time

and had the power to bring immigration legislation to the floor at will. And Obama also did not push because, according to the Times, the president "does not intend to get out in front of any proposal until there is a strong bipartisan commitment to pass it." Funny, he did not wait for a "strong bipartisan commitment" before pushing Obamacare. But apparently immigration was not a priority.

By the time Obama got around to immigration legislation, Republicans had retaken the House. After failing to act when he had the votes, in 2012 Obama announced he would implement Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, an unlawful executive action to effectively legalize the presence of illegal immigrants who had arrived in the United States as children. The Post's editorial board correctly called it an "unprecedented" move that "flies in the face of congressional intent," adding that "Republicans' failure to address immigration ... does not justify Mr. Obama's massive unilateral act." Even "Saturday Night Live" skewered Obama's executive action.

President Donald Trump was right to reverse Obama's unconstitutional decision. He had no choice. He also said at the time he supported letting DACA recipients stay, set a deadline of March 5 for a legislative solution and added that he would be willing to give Congress even more time if necessary. "Congress now has 6 months to legally DACA," Trump tweeted on Sept. 5. "If they can't, I will revisit the issue!"

In other words, there was no crisis for DACA recipients. This was, as Obama said when Republicans shut down the government in 2013, a "manufactured crisis" — one that Obama helped manufacture with his broken immigration promises. For once, Democrats were the ones making unreasonable demands. And now Democrats will have to pay the political price. If they don't like it, they can only blame themselves and Obama.

Shutdown shows parties governing in a fantasy land

By ERIC CANTOR
Special To The Washington Post

I served as House majority leader in 2013 during the last government shutdown. A lot has changed in our nation's politics since then, but when it comes to shutdowns, much remains the same. A shutdown is a pretty pointless exercise in self-inflicting a modest wound. And the media obsession with countdown clocks and shuttered national parks misses the real story: the inability of some elected officials to work within the realities of governing rather than the perceived realities of the political cocoons that members of both parties increasingly occupy.

The 2013 shutdown was the result of some Republicans, first in the Senate and then in the House, insisting that the president sign into law a provision defunding "Obamacare," even though the president who would have to sign that was ... Barack Obama. In the real world, it was an absurd idea. But in the political cocoons of some on the right — I won't call these conservative — it was a plausible strategy that required only greater resolve on the part of elected Republicans to succeed. After 16 days, I along with 86 other House Republicans voted to reopen the government. Obamacare was just as funded as it was

The lasting impact will be determined by the attitude our elected officials take away from this pointless, self-inflicted wound.

before.

The circumstances leading to Monday's shutdown were, of course, different. On its face, it was congressional Democrats who insisted that something be done, in this case on immigration, in exchange for their support for reopening the government.

But the root causes of the shutdown were the same as they were in 2013: a desire to govern in a reality that doesn't exist.

Washington has a lot of must-do items on its plate: resolving the status of "dreamers" under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, agreeing to new discretionary spending levels (especially for defense), raising the statutory debt limit and mitigating some of the negative impacts of the Affordable Care Act.

Addressing each of these requires bipartisan support, and one can easily see the outlines of a reasonable compromise:

■ A permanent solution, including a path to citizenship, for DACA recipients in exchange for a major investment in border

security.

■ A significant increase in defense spending coupled with a sizable increase for nondefense, with much of the latter set aside for pressing national priorities, such as the opioid crisis and infrastructure.

■ An increase in the debt limit — there is no political appetite today for the major entitlement reforms our country needs over the long term.

■ Restoring cost-sharing subsidies under the ACA and extending the suspension of ACA taxes in exchange for greater flexibility for states to reform the ACA.

I suspect that when the smoke clears, something along those lines will be the new law of the land. So why go through the shutdown to get there? Because, not insignificant, elements of both parties think they can govern in a world where they get everything they want without agreeing to some of the priorities of the other side.

For example: on the left, DACA without anything meaningful to secure the bor-

der, and on the right, the wall but no path to citizenship. That may sound doable on certain cable "news" shows, but it isn't if you're governing in the real world.

As in 2013, the practical impact of this government shutdown will be modest and temporary. Some number of Americans were needlessly inconvenienced, and the government wasted a fair amount of money shutting down and reopening. But we will soon recover just as we have after all previous shutdowns.

The political impact will also be temporary. In the midst of a shutdown, pundits like to spend a lot of time speculating about who will be blamed. Most voters quickly forgot the 2013 shutdown. The news cycle is even more rapid and our attention spans even shorter today.

The lasting impact will be determined by the attitude our elected officials take away from this pointless, self-inflicted wound. Is there a renewed commitment to governing within the constraints of the real world and the need for bipartisan agreement? Or do more members of both parties retreat to the safety of political cocoons?

Eric Cantor, a Republican from Virginia, served as House majority leader from 2011 to 2014. He was majority leader from 2011 to 2014. He is vice chairman and managing director of the investment bank Moelis & Co.

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GERALD HERBERT/AP

Pelicans center DeMarcus Cousins, left, goes to the basket against Bulls center Robin Lopez in the second half Monday in New Orleans.

Roundup

Cousins' record night lifts Pelicans

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — DeMarcus Cousins considered the most impressive statistical night of his career and only half-jokingly asserted that he was most proud of the stamina needed to log a career high of more than 51 minutes on the court.

Cousins had 44 points, 24 rebounds and 10 assists, Anthony Davis scored 34, and the All-Star pair led a 17-point New Orleans comeback in the final five minutes of regulation before the Pelicans pulled out a 132-128 victory over the Chicago Bulls in double overtime Monday night.

"My strength coach had the nerve to ask me, do I want to lift after this game? I almost lost it. If I had some energy, we would have fought," Cousins said. "I'm just glad it's over. Seriously. I think [the Bulls] feel the same way, too."

In between several moments of brilliance in the second overtime, Cousins' body language suggested he could barely stand. His feet hardly left the floor on a three-pointer that rolled around the rim and in. He also managed to hit a turnaround jumper and calmly made two free throws to ice the game with eight seconds left.

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Cousins became the first NBA player since Hall of Famer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar in 1972 to have as many as 40 points, 20 rebounds and 10 assists in a game, according to the Elias Sports Bu-

reau. Few others have done it.

Cousins' assists included alley-oop lobs to Davis and a couple of long passes to him for breakaway baskets.

"You dream about moments like that as a kid — a game coming down to the line and just making big plays down the stretch," Cousins said. "I think we just willed our way through this game."

Bucks 109, Suns 105: Kris Middleton scored 35 points and hit two long jumpers in the final minute. Malcolm Brogdon added 32 points and host Milwaukee beat Phoenix hours after firing coach Jason Kidd.

Rockets 99, Heat 90: James Harden scored 28 points and host Houston overcame a big early deficit to beat Miami.

Grizzlies 105, 76ers 101: Marc Gasol scored 19 points, Tyreke Evans added 18 points and eight assists, and the pair led a fourth-quarter rally that lifted host Memphis over Philadelphia.

Mavericks 98, Wizards 75: Harrison Barnes had 20 points and 10 rebounds, rookie Dennis Smith Jr. scored 17 and host Dallas finished a season sweep of playoff-contending Washington.

Hawks 104, Jazz 90: Dennis Schroder scored 20 points, Taurean Prince added 17 and host Atlanta kept up its improving play with a victory over Utah.

Hornets 112, Kings 107: Kemba Walker had 26 points, Jeremy Lamb added 18 and Charlotte bounced back from a tough loss to beat visiting Sacramento.

Nuggets 104, Trail Blazers 101: Jamal Murray scored a career-high 38 points, including a three-point play in the final minute of host Denver's victory over Portland.

Timberwolves 126, Clippers 118: Andrew Wiggins scored a season-high 40 points and Minnesota hung on to beat Los Angeles, snapping a four-game road skid.

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Philadelphia	22	23	.490	10
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Miami	26	21	.565	1
Washington	19	26	.422	4
Atlanta	14	29	.304	12½
Orlando	14	32	.304	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	25	28	.450	3
Indiana	22	35	.393	7
Milwaukee	22	35	.393	7
Detroit	18	29	.383	10

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	33	12	.733	—
San Antonio	26	20	.565	3½
New Orleans	25	21	.543	8½
Memphis	17	29	.370	16½
Dallas	16	31	.340	18

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Golden State	37	10	.787	—
L.A. Clippers	23	25	.463	13½
L.A. Lakers	21	26	.437	19½
Phoenix	17	30	.362	20
Sacramento	13	33	.283	23½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	112	124	.490	107
Houston	104	130	.455	116
Memphis	105	119	.475	108
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
L.A. Lakers	91	124	.438	123
Denver	104	125	.458	124
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Monday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Charlotte	112	124	.490	107
Houston	104	130	.455	116
Memphis	105	119	.475	108
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
L.A. Lakers	91	124	.438	123
Denver	104	125	.458	124
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Tuesday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Wednesday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Thursday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Friday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Saturday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Sunday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Monday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Tuesday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Wednesday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Thursday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Friday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB
Sacramento	112	124	.490	107
Portland	94	121	.448	120
San Antonio	93	122	.444	121
Atlanta	95	120	.446	119
Minnesota	126	122	.511	118

Saturday's games

	W	L	Pct	GB

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NBA/COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MORRY GASH/AP

The Bucks fired coach Jason Kidd before their game on Monday.

Bucks hope firing Kidd sparks club

By GENARO C. ARMAS
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Jason Kidd helped make the Bucks relevant again. Someone else will have to help them become champions.

Despite mentoring a young, athletic core led by All-Star Giannis Antetokounmpo, Kidd was fired by Milwaukee general manager Jon Horst on Monday. Assistant coach Joe Prunty will lead the team for the rest of the season.

Still, if and when Milwaukee does compete for NBA titles, Kidd's influence will be clear. He led Antetokounmpo and company to two playoff appearances in three seasons — not bad for a team that won 15 games four seasons ago. Antetokounmpo has become a star, and Khris Middleton has also become a standout player.

Yet the Bucks are hovering around .500 and stuck in the bottom half of the Eastern Conference playoff picture. The perimeter defense hasn't ever really improved, and turnovers have become a debilitating issue of late.

For Horst, there wasn't enough progress for Kidd to keep his job. The surprise firing, hours before the Bucks beat Phoenix 109-105, sent a message to players about mounting expectations as the talented kids become veterans.

"It's not all on one person. The players have some type of responsibility," Middleton said after scoring 35 points in the victory. "He's the first one to go, but it could be one of us next. We have to do our job night in and night out."

Consider Kidd's dismissal a wake-up call for a team that had been a feel-good story in the NBA over the last couple years.

"A general manager in the NHL had a statement once: 'If something is inevitable, why wait?'" Horst said at a news conference before the game.

Horst added that the decision was made "relatively quickly" and was not in the works through the season. Co-owner Wes Edens said Horst had the ownership group's support.

Kidd was one of the NBA's most dynamic guards during his playing career and a triple-double threat in his heyday. He made the unusual jump right into coaching the year after his playing career ended, guiding the Nets to a 44-win season and a trip to the second round of the Eastern Conference playoffs in his one and only season in Brooklyn in 2013-14.

He was hired by Milwaukee a few months after a group led by co-owners Edens and Mark Lasry bought the team in April 2014. The Bucks traded two future second-round draft picks to the Nets as compensation.

In Milwaukee, Kidd inherited a team that won 15 games in 2013-14. Other than a 33-win season in 2015-16, the youthful Bucks hovered around .500 under Kidd while Antetokounmpo and Middleton developed. Malcolm Brogdon won the NBA rookie of the year award last season, and Jabari Parker has the potential to be an explosive scorer when healthy.

Despite all that, Milwaukee has largely treaded water in the wide-open East, even after adding talented guard Eric Bledsoe in a trade with the Suns in November. The Bucks are 8-12 since going a season-high five games over .500 on Dec. 9.

Top 25 roundup

TCU upsets No. 7 WVU after dropping out of poll

Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — This was the kind of home-court celebration Jamie Dixon envisioned for TCU when he returned to his alma mater less than two years ago.

Students spilled onto the court, some even lifting Dixon into the air, after the Horned Frogs beat No. 7 West Virginia 82-73 on Monday night. Their first home win over a Top 10 team in nearly five years came on the same day they dropped out of the AP Top 25.

"We had lost so many of these, so many opportunities, close games, even the last two years, home games, big crowd, atmosphere," Dixon said. "We've had leads, and we had opportunity, and it just didn't happen for whatever reason."

Alex Robinson scored 17 points for TCU (15-5, 3-5 Big 12), even with a long three-pointer at the end of the half taken away by video replay. Desmond Bane scored eight of his 15 points in just over a minute early in the second half to cap a game-changing 23-3 run that spanned the end of the first half and first few minutes after the break.

"We just knew this was a big game. We lost the last one, we didn't play very well," said Robinson, who also had nine assists and seven rebounds.

All five West Virginia starters scored in double figures, but the Mountaineers (16-4, 5-3) shot only 33 percent and lost for the third time in four games. Jevon Carter had a team-high 16 points.

Kouat Noi had 13 points with three three-pointers for TCU before being ejected because of a flagrant foul with just over 10 minutes left. Vladimir Brodziansky had 14 points, and Kenrich Williams had 14 rebounds.

No. 6 Michigan State 87, Illinois 74: Miles Bridges scored 31 points, Jaren Jackson Jr. had 21 points and 11 rebounds and the visiting Spartans got a harder-than-expected win over Illinois.

Michigan State (18-3, 6-2 Big Ten) shot 68.2 percent, which set a record at State Farm Center for an opponent's shooting percentage. Illinois shot 43.1 percent.

Kipper Nichols led Illinois (10-11, 0-8) with a career-high 27 points.

Virginia Tech 80, No. 10 North Carolina 69: Justin Robinson scored 19 points and the host Hokies pulled away in the second half to beat the Tar Heels.

Ahmed Hill added 18 points for Virginia Tech (14-6, 3-4 Atlantic Coast Conference). Hill scored seven in a row to start the decisive 13-3 burst, which turned a 51-48 lead into a 64-51 advantage with just under eight minutes remaining. Kerry Blackshear Jr. added 16 points.

Joel Berry and Luke Maye scored 23 points each for North Carolina (16-5, 5-3). The Tar Heels never got closer than eight points in the final eight minutes.



RICHARD W. RODRIGUEZ/AP

TCU guard Alex Robinson puts up a shot after driving past West Virginia's Wesley Harris on Monday in Fort Worth, Texas. Robinson scored 17 points as TCU upset No. 7 West Virginia the same day the Horned Frogs fell out of the AP Top 25.

No. 13 Ohio State 64, Nebraska 59: Keita Bates-Diop scored 14 of his 20 points in the second half to lead the surging host Buckeyes to their fourth victory in the last eight days.

The back-and-forth game had seven lead changes in the second half. A pair of foul shots by Nebraska's James Palmer Jr. cut Ohio State's lead to four with 2:19 remaining, but the Cornhuskers couldn't pull any closer.

Jae Sean Tate put the Buckeyes (18-4, 9-0 Big Ten) up by six with a layup with 1:02 left. Palmer had a career-high 34 points for Nebraska (14-8, 5-4).

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NHL/AUTO RACING

Daytona: Patrick gets ride

BY JENNA FRYER
Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Danica Patrick has found a ride for the Daytona 500 that helps complete the closing of her racing career in appropriate fashion.

Patrick will drive for Premium Motorsports in next month's Daytona 500, her final NASCAR race. She also plans to race in the Indianapolis 500 in May.

The one-race deal for next month's NASCAR showcase will put Patrick in the seat of the No. 7 GoDaddy Chevrolet, the same number she drove when she entered stock-car racing in 2010.

Her former crew chief, Tony Eury Jr., will return to Patrick's pit box for her finale.

"I keep saying, 'I couldn't have written a better story about how this would all fall into place' ... Going with the flow is working out beautifully," said Patrick. "I'll be back in GoDaddy green, driving the No. 7 Chevrolet with Tony Jr. in my ear again. It all makes my last NASCAR race just that much sweeter."

Premium Motorsports recently bought assets from Tommy Baldwin Racing. The No. 7 car will use Premium's charter (the No. 15 car last year) to have a guaranteed spot in the Feb. 18 season-opening event. The team will receive engineering support from Richard Childress Racing.

GoDaddy reunited with Patrick last week, agreeing to sponsor her cars for the final two races of her career. She announced her plans to race Daytona and Indy before she had rides, and a deal with Chip Ganassi Racing for both races never happened. She called GoDaddy founder Bob Parsons in December for help making the "Danica Double" happen.

The sponsorship from GoDaddy gives her additional funds to find seats in both races, and the Indy team still has to be completed. Many IndyCar owners have said they can't or won't field Patrick in the Indy 500, the race that made her famous, but anything can change now that she's secured sponsorship.

Premium is hardly a top-shelf team, but Daytona is a place where that won't hurt Patrick. Premium ranked 34th in owner standings in 2017, but Michael Waltrip drove its Daytona 500 car to an eighth-place finish. Patrick will be also aided by her previous experience with Eury, who was her crew chief when she made her initial move from IndyCar to NASCAR.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	Gf	Ga
Tampa Bay	49	37	32	7	93	67	166
Boston	45	27	10	8	62	150	112
Toronto	45	26	11	8	60	148	119
Detroit	46	19	20	9	45	123	138
Florida	45	19	20	6	44	129	148
Montreal	47	18	21	9	43	125	145
Ottawa	45	15	21	9	39	122	160
Buffalo	47	12	24	9	33	105	160

Metropolitan Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	Gf	Ga
Washington	48	28	15	4	61	146	133
New Jersey	45	24	14	8	56	142	140
Colorado	45	23	16	6	55	138	149
Philadelphia	47	23	16	5	54	137	134
N.Y. Rangers	48	24	19	5	53	144	140
NY. Islanders	47	21	20	6	52	145	147
N.Y. Islanders	49	24	19	5	53	170	179
Carolina	47	21	18	8	50	139	145

Western Conference

Central Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	Gf	Ga
Winnipeg	45	28	13	7	63	156	159
Nashville	45	26	14	6	62	154	152
St. Louis	49	28	18	3	59	142	129
Dallas	48	27	17	4	58	145	127
Minnesota	48	26	17	5	57	141	134
Chicago	48	26	17	5	56	139	132

Pacific Division

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	Gf	Ga
Vegas	48	31	11	4	66	157	123
Detroit	47	26	16	6	58	145	139
Colorado	47	26	16	6	58	145	139
Minnesota	47	25	17	5	55	138	111
Calgary	47	25	17	5	55	131	129
Los Angeles	47	25	17	5	55	135	121
Buffalo	47	24	19	7	54	131	147
Arizona	47	21	23	5	54	131	149
Vancouver	47	18	23	6	42	121	153
Anaheim	47	18	23	6	42	121	153

Thursdays' games

Toronto at Chicago

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh

Philadelphia at New Jersey

Montreal at St. Louis

Carolina at Nashville

Florida at Dallas

Buffalo at Edmonton

Montreal at Vancouver

N.Y. Rangers at Anaheim

Winnipeg at Los Angeles

Calgary at Edmonton

Buffalo at Vancouver

N.Y. Islanders at Vegas

Winnipeg at Anaheim

N.Y. Rangers at St. Louis

Montreal at Dallas

Colorado at Calgary

Edmonton at Buffalo

Montreal at Colorado

Carolina at Florida

Colorado at Montreal

Montreal at St. Louis

Carolina at Dallas

Colorado at Colorado

Montreal at Colorado

Carolina at Colorado

Montreal at Colorado

Car

AUSTRALIAN OPEN/MLB

Nadal retires in fifth set with leg injury

BY JOHN PYE
Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — One point after his medical timeout in the fourth set, Rafael Nadal went to the rear of the court to squat and do a knee-raise, trying to stretch out his injured right leg.

Three games later — one point after his subsequent visit from the trainer — Nadal had to delay Marin Cilic's serve while trying to walk out the pain at the start of the fifth set.

After limping and wincing through two more games, and after failing to fend off a sixth break point, the 16-time major champion was out of the Australian Open.

The sixth-seeded Cilic advanced to his first semifinal in Australia since 2010 with a 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 2-0 victory Tuesday. He will next play 49th-ranked Kyle Edmund, who beat third-ranked Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time.

"Tough moments — not (for) the first time here," Nadal said. "I'm a persistent person, but today is an opportunity lost to be in a semifinal for a Grand Slam and fight for an important title for me."

"It's really tough to accept."

Injuries to star players dominated headlines before the tournament. Five-time Australian Open finalist Andy Murray withdrew so he could have surgery on his hip. Nadal (right knee), six-time champion Novak Djokovic (right elbow) and 2014 champion Stan Wawrinka (left knee) left their fitness decisions until the eve of the tournament — it's no surprise they are all out of the tournament.

There are limits to human endurance, and Nadal found his on Tuesday.

"Somebody who is running the tour should think [a] little bit about what's going on. Too many people getting injured," said Nadal, who was still limping and grimacing at a post-match news conference. "I don't know if they have to think a little bit about the health of the players."

"I don't know if we keep playing in this very, very hard surfaces what's going to happen in the future with our lives."

Nadal said the timing and the number of tournaments on the schedule and the proliferation of hardcourts are concerns. Other

Scoreboard

Tuesday

at Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
(seedings in parentheses)

Men's Singles

Qualifying

Marin Cilic (6), Croatia, def. Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, 3-6, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-2, 2-0
Kyle Edmund (49), United Kingdom, def. Grigor Dimitrov (3), Bulgaria, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Women's Singles

Qualifying

Elise Mertens, Belgium (4), def. Elina Svitolina (4), Ukraine, 6-4, 5-0
Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-2.

Men's Doubles

Qualifying

Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany and Ben McLachlan, Japan, def. Kacper Kubot, Poland and Marcelo Melo, Brazil, 6-4, 6-3
Bob Bryan, United States and Mike Bryan (6), United States, def. Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi, Pakistan and Marcin Matkowski, Poland, 6-1, 6-4.

Women's Doubles

Qualifying

Kristina Mladenovic, France and Timea Babos (5), Hungary, def. Yung-Jan Chan, Taiwan and Andreescu, Canada, 6-4, 6-2
Shuai Peng, China and Su-Wei Hsieh (8), Taiwan, def. Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic and Lucie Safarova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-2.

Monica Niculescu, Romania and Irina Begu (10), Romania, def. Vanja King, United States and Jennifer Brady, United States, 6-4, 6-2.

Elina Vesnina, Russia and Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, def. Y-Fan Xu, China and Gabriela Dabrowski (5), Canada, 6-0, 6-1, 7-6 (2).

players have expressed similar views.

Last year's Australian Open was one for the ages, with Roger Federer returning from a six-month injury layoff and beating Nadal in five sets in the final, and Serena Williams beating her sister, Venus, for the women's title. Serena opted not to defend her title, deciding she hadn't had enough time to recover from giving birth to her first child in September. Venus Williams lost in the first round.

This year's Australian Open is shaping up more as one of discovery. On the women's side, Angelique Kerber was the only major champion to reach the quarterfinals.

No. 35-ranked Elina Mertens upset fourth-seeded Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-0 to extend her winning streak to 10 matches, becoming the first Belgian since Kim Clijsters in 2012 to reach the semifinals.

Up next for her is second-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, who finished off a 6-0, 6-7 (3), 6-2 win over Carla Suarez Navarro after 1:30 a.m.



ANDY BROWNELL/AP

Rafael Nadal serves to Marin Cilic during their quarterfinal Tuesday at the Australian Open. Nadal retired with an injury in the fifth set.

Wozniacki, who is still chasing her first Grand Slam title, can also return to No. 1 for the first time in six years depending on the results in Melbourne.

The second-ranked Federer is still in contention for his 20th major, with a quarterfinal against Tomas Berdych on Wednesday. On Federer's side of the draw, 88th-ranked Hyeon Chung and 97th-ranked Tennys Sandgren are playing for a spot in the semifinals.

Cilic against Edmund was an unlikely pairing in the top half of the men's draw. Edmund had never played in a major quarterfinal, had never won five consecutive matches at tour level, had lost both of his previous matches against Dimitrov and had never beaten a top-five player.

He checked all those boxes at Rod Laver Arena.

"I am loving it right now, just the way I'm playing," Edmund said. "My first Grand Slam semifinal. First time I played on one of the biggest courts in the world. To beat a quality of player like Grigor. They're great

feelings. So, yeah, I just try to enjoy it as much as possible."

Nadal left dejected. It was the second time he had had to retire during an Australian Open quarterfinal — the previous time was against Murray in 2010.

He said he felt muscle pain in his upper right leg in the third set against Cilic but played through it.

In the fourth set, chasing a drop shot, he felt the pain get worse "but didn't realize how bad."

He had an injury timeout at 4-1 down in the fourth set, and another at the end of the set.

After Cilic broke his serve, the 31-year-old Spaniard went to shake hands with the umpire and his opponent, and angrily hurled his headband into his equipment bag.

Nadal said he would have medical scans Wednesday to determine the exact location and extent of the injury, which he could only describe as being high on his right leg but not in the hip.

Feeling: Jones looking forward to Hall reunion with Braves teammates

FROM BACK PAGE

"Man, it was a good marriage," Jones said. "I was a big Dodgers fan growing up, but I never really thought about wanting to put on a Dodgers uniform. I never thought about playing in the big city lights of New York or wonder what it would be like to be a Yankee. I was a Brave."

The Braves were one of baseball's worst teams when they drafted Jones with the No. 1 overall pick in 1990. Pitcher Todd Van Poppel was considered the top prospect that year, but many teams — Atlanta included — backed off when the right-hander vowed to attend college.

Turns out, Van Poppel did sign with the Oakland Athletics after they grabbed him with the 13th pick. But the Braves never had any second thoughts about their selection.



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

The Braves' Chipper Jones drives in a run in a 2008 game. Jones looks poised to become the latest member of the great Atlanta teams of the 1990s and early 2000s to enter the Hall when the next class of inductees is revealed on Wednesday.

Van Poppel bounced around to six teams, going 40-52 with a 5.58 ERA.

Jones became the face of a franchise.

Of course, there are some regrets about all the postseason heartbreak — especially the 1996 World Series, when the Braves seemed a lock to capture their second straight championship.

"We won the first two at Yankee Stadium," Jones said, by a combined score of 16-1, no less. "Riding home on the plane, I'm thinking to myself, 'Two years in the big leagues, two World Series rings. I counted my chickens before they hatched. As baseball normally does, it came back to humble me.'"

The Braves lost the next four games — three in Atlanta — and never came so close again to a championship.

In the only other Series appearances of Jones' career, the Braves were swept by the Yankees in 1999. Nine more times, Atlanta was eliminated in an NL Division Series or Championship Series. And in his final game, the Braves lost to St. Louis in baseball's first wild-card playoff, with Jones making a crucial throwing error and fans littering the field with garbage after a disputed infield call.

"To say we left at least one or two out there is not an understatement," he said ruefully.

In retirement Jones and others wondered how he would fare without a game that was such a big part of his life.

Not to worry.

The 45-year-old married for a third time in 2015 and now has six children, all boys, the youngest of whom turned 1 a couple of

weeks ago. He plays golf regularly and gets paid to pursue another passion on his weekly Sportsman Channel show "Major League Bowhunters." He has attended spring training as a guest instructor of the Braves but has shown no real desire to get back into the game full time.

"Nobody was more shocked than I was," Jones said. "I thought they would have to rip the uniform off me."

While content with life after baseball, he is looking forward to a reunion this summer in Cooperstown.

With Maddux and Glavine and Smoltz.

With Cox and Schuerholz.

"Hopefully," Jones said, "this will come to fruition and we'll all be back together again in one big group. That would be pretty cool."

SKIING/OLYMPICS/SPORTS BRIEFS

Flu, fatigue are affecting skiers

Shiffrin fails to finish giant slalom

By ANDREW DAMPF
Associated Press

SAN VIGILIO DI MAREBBE, Italy — It's the time of year when World Cup skiers get worn down with flu, fever and general fatigue — and all of the protagonists in Tuesday's giant slalom were affected by it in one way or another.

Viktoria Rebensburg of Germany returned from two weeks in bed to claim her third win of the season while overall Cup leader Mikaela Shiffrin cited fatigue as a factor after an uncharacteristic fall in the first run.

"It's Day 7 on snow in a row and Day 11 or 12 on snow with only one day off," Shiffrin told The Associated Press. "So, it's a lot. It's definitely a point in the season where fatigue is starting to build up."

Sitting third after the opening leg, Rebensburg had the fastest second run to finish 0.03 seconds ahead of first-run leader Ragnhild Mowinckel of Norway amid perfect conditions at the

Kronplatz resort.

"After this period when I was lying at home on my couch watching other girls ripping it wasn't easy to stay patient," Rebensburg said. "But now I'm 100 percent healthy."

Mowinckel was 0.21 ahead of Rebensburg at the final checkpoint but lost speed through the final gates. Still, it was the Norwegian's best career result and she celebrated as if she had won.

Defending champion Federica Brignone of Italy finished third, 0.66 behind, despite a fever that kept her out of Sunday's super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo.

"In between runs I was almost asleep," Brignone said. "But I tried not to think I've been sick the last few days and lying in bed all day long ... I tried to give everything in front of my people."

Shiffrin lost control of her inside ski coming around a turn as she entered the toughest section of a slope named Erta, which translates as steep. With a gradient of 61 percent in that section, Shiffrin slid a long way down the



ALESSANDRO TROVATI/AP

The United States' Mikaela Shiffrin loses her balance and falls as she speeds down the course during Tuesday's women's World Cup giant slalom at the Kronplatz resort in San Vigilio di Marebbe, Italy.

course but immediately got up and was not injured.

"I got on my inside ski going over that breaker and it was the one turn that I knew like, 'Have some direction, it gets really steep after this. It's a short breaker. And you just want to make sure you're on point on this turn,'" Shiffrin said. "And I was going into it really aggressive but fine."

"It happens," Shiffrin added. "One of the things I've been working on the most is putting

the pressure on my outside ski so I don't boot out like I did."

After missing a gate on Sunday in the Cortina super-G, it marked the first time in more than six years that Shiffrin failed to finish two consecutive races. The last time came in back-to-back slaloms in Courchevel, France, and Flachau, Austria, in December 2011 — before the American registered her first World Cup podium.

It was the 16th career World Cup win for Rebensburg, who

also won the giant slalom at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics. Rebensburg's other wins this season came in the season opener in Soelden, Austria, in October and then in Killington, Vt., in November.

Marta Bassino of Italy finished fourth and Sara Hector of Sweden was fifth.

Shiffrin still holds a massive 843-point lead over Rebensburg in the overall standings. In the GS rankings, Rebensburg moved 37 points ahead of Shiffrin.

Russia says Ahn barred from Games

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH
Associated Press



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Short-track speedskating gold medalist Viktor Ahn is among several top Russian athletes barred from competing in the upcoming Pyeongchang Olympics amid the country's ongoing doping scandal.

the Russian athletes' flag, anthem, to push Russia toward a boycott ... And now this is the second attempt, tyranny, an attempt to drive a wedge between athletes who had managed to keep their good name," Mikhail Degtyarev said. "I'm not personally a supporter of a boycott. I consider it counterproductive, but we need to defend our honor."

Besides Ahn, the Russian Olympic Committee said Tuesday that cross-country skier Sergei Ustyugov and biathlete Anton Shuplin had been left out of an IOC pool of eligible athletes. Other officials

said five men's hockey players, two-time figure skating medalist Ksenia Stolbova and several other speedskaters were excluded.

As punishment for what it termed a sophisticated doping program at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, the IOC has forced all Russians competing in Pyeongchang to do so as "Olympic Athletes from Russia" under the Olympic flag, rather than as an official Russian team.

Associated Press reporters Nataliya Vasilyeva and Vladimir Kondrashov in Moscow and AP Sports Writer Graham Dunbar in Geneva contributed to this report.

Briefly

Source says Cubs talking to Darvish

Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Chicago Cubs are having active talks with free agent Yu Darvish, hoping to add the right-hander to their rotation as they try for a second championship in three seasons.

The 31-year-old Darvish is one of the top players available in a slow-moving market this winter.

He finished last season with the Los Angeles Dodgers, helping them reach the World Series.

A person with direct knowledge of the discussions confirmed the talks to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity Monday night because there was no agreement in place. The Texas Rangers, Milwaukee Brewers, Minnesota Twins and New York Yankees also have expressed interest in Darvish.

The conversations come amid reports the Cubs have agreed to a minor league deal with Chris Gimenez, who regularly caught Darvish while they were in Texas and developed a trusted working relationship with the Japanese pitcher.

In other baseball news:

■ Center fielder Austin Jackson agreed to a \$6 million, two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants on Monday, filling the club's top remaining void just a few weeks before pitchers and catchers report to spring training.

Jackson, who turns 31 on Feb. 1, batted .318 with seven homers, 19 doubles, three triples and 35 RBIs while limited to just 85 games because of injuries for Cleveland last season.

RB Adams transfers from OU to Syracuse

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Oklahoma running back Abdul Adams has transferred to Syracuse.

Adams is enrolled in classes and will participate in spring drills for the Orange. He will sit out next season because of transfer rules and will have two seasons of eligibility remaining.

The 5-foot-11, 205-pound Adams played in 19 games at Oklahoma, rushing for 825 yards and a touchdown and catching eight passes for 103 yards.

The exclusions stirred renewed talk of a boycott, though Sports Minister Pavel Kolobkov said Tuesday the decision to compete by athletes and officials at a meeting last month remained in force.

The chairman of the Russian parliament's sports committee, however, told The Associated Press that the country needed to "defend our honor."

"There was an attempt to take

NFL

Wilks selected by Cards

By BOB BAUM
Associated Press

PHOENIX — Steve Wilks is the new head coach of the Arizona Cardinals, and chances are he won't tread meekly into his new job.

"Steve's personality is as an aggressive guy," his ex-boss, Carolina Panthers head coach Ron Rivera, said.

Wilks, 48, spent last season as defensive coordinator of the Panthers after five seasons as the team's secondary coach. He's been an NFL assistant for 12 years.

Wilks replaces the colorful and outspoken Bruce Arians, who retired after five seasons and compiled a franchise-record 50 victories.

With the hiring of Wilks, all three major football programs in the state have African-American coaches — Wilks, Herm Edwards at Arizona State and Kevin Sumlin at Arizona. Wilks is the Cardinals' second African-American coach (Dennis Green was the first) and the only minority candidate to get an NFL head coaching job this hiring cycle.

The Cardinals were 8-8 last season despite a myriad of significant injuries and closed out Arians' career with a win in Seattle.

"This is not really a rebuild, this is a retool," Wilks told azcardinals.com. "We have the culture of winning here. We just have to be able to sustain it. It's all about trying to get to the next level and the consistency you need to get to the next level."

Patrick Peterson, perennial Pro Bowl cornerback and a leader of the Arizona defense, tweeted simply "I LOVE IT!"

Wilks was in Arizona for a second interview last week and was interviewed for the Tennessee job, which went to Mike Vrabel. Wilks also coached for 11 years at the collegiate level, including a one-year stint as head coach at Savannah State in 1999.



Carolina Panthers assistant head coach Steve Wilks was hired as the new head football coach of the Arizona Cardinals.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski, center, is hit by Jacksonville Jaguars safety Barry Church, right, as he breaks up a pass during the first half of the AFC championship game on Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. Gronkowski suffered a concussion on the play and sat out the rest of the game.

Brady, Gronkowski use bye week to try to heal

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — In the two-week run-up to the Super Bowl, the New England Patriots will face plenty of questions about two things critical to the team's success: Tom Brady's right hand and Rob Gronkowski's head.

Brady answered most of the concerns about whether the hand injury would hinder him with a strong performance in New England's AFC championship game victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars.

Gronkowski, meanwhile, will likely spend at least part of this week going through the concussion protocol. He suffered the injury on a helmet-to-helmet hit from Jacksonville safety Barry Church.

The game-changing tight end is Brady's favorite target, and he missed last season's Super Bowl run after undergoing season-ending back surgery.

There was no update from the Patriots on Gronk's status Monday, but he was at the facility for team meetings.

"He was in pretty good spirits today when I spoke to him," special teams captain Matt Slater said.

Recently, New England has fared well when Gronk has been sidelined. But that hasn't always been the case.

The Patriots had plenty of time to adjust to his absence in 2016,



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The injured right hand of Patriots quarterback Tom Brady was the subject of intense scrutiny going into the AFC championship game.

when he played just eight games before the surgery. They also had Martellus Bennett to pick up the slack.

Since the start of last season, New England is 12-1 without Gronk. In those games, the Patriots' points per game actually increased from 28.6 to 28.8, although their yards per play declined from 8.1 to 7.6.

The offense was also better without him on third down and in the red zone. Over the past two seasons it converted on 49.3 percent of its chances on third down

and scored touchdowns on 66 percent of its red zone trips without him, compared to 45 percent on third down and scoring touchdowns on 62.6 percent of red zone trips when he played.

From his rookie season in 2010 through 2015, his absence had a much greater impact.

The Patriots were 12-7 without Gronkowski over that span, averaging 31.5 points per game with him and 26.3 without him. The offense's average yards per pass attempt also fell from 7.8 with him to 6.6 without him.

Before he was injured, Gronkowski passed Dallas Clark to become the NFL's career leader for postseason yards at the position. And if the concussion were to sideline him for the Super Bowl, there's not much depth behind him. The only tight ends on New England's roster are Dwayne Allen and Jacob Hollister.

Brady still has stitches in his right thumb. He hopes to have them removed sometime this week, and he doesn't expect the injury to be an issue once Super Bowl week arrives.

"And then I just can get out there and get normal treatment like I always do and be ready to go," Brady said.

"This was a little injury at the end of the day... I mean, I've had a lot worse injuries than this. If this was on my left hand, I could care less, just based on where it was, we had to deal with it."

Giants go with Shurmur

By TOM CANAVAN
Associated Press

ESTATE RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur has been hired as the New York Giants' head coach.

The Giants announced the hiring late Monday afternoon, less than 24 hours after Shurmur and the Vikings were beaten by the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC title game.

The 52-year-old Shurmur replaces Ben McAdoo, who was fired in early December with the team mired in a 2-10 record and owners and fans upset with his handling of the benching of two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning.

Defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo took over for the final four games and posted a 1-3 record.

"He has an outstanding track record in developing young players, and it is clear his players respond to his guidance and direction," co-owners John Mara and Steve Tisch said in a statement.

"We interviewed six talented and qualified candidates, and we feel like Pat, with his vision and experience, is the right person to lead our team."

The Giants won't officially introduce Shurmur until Friday. A winter storm in the Midwest is preventing him from coming to New Jersey on Tuesday and he will be at the Senior Bowl in Mobile, Ala., from Tuesday night through Thursday.

Shurmur returns to the head coaching ranks for the first time since leading the Cleveland Browns in 2011-12. He takes over a troubled team that posted a 3-13 record a year after making the playoffs.

Shurmur was interviewed on Jan. 6 by Mara, new general manager Dave Gettleman and assistant GM Kevin Abrams.

The Giants interviewed five other candidates.



JOHN AUTEY, PIONEER PRESS/AP
The New York Giants have hired Minnesota Vikings offensive coordinator Pat Shurmur as their new head coach.

SPORTS

Injured Nadal out

No. 1 retires in quarterfinal at Australian Open » Page 29



MLB

Feeling Chipper

Braves' career third baseman looking like a shoo-in to join Big Three in Hall

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

When Chipper Jones took stock of all of the familiar names he's on the cusp of rejoining, he wondered if it might be time to expand the Baseball Hall of Fame.

"We need to see if we can erect our own room in Cooperstown," Jones quipped, flashing that dry sense of humor he was known for during his playing days.

All signs point to Jones becoming the latest member of those great Atlanta Braves teams of the 1990s and early 2000s to enter the Hall when the inductees are revealed on Wednesday.

The Braves' Big Three — pitchers Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz — already have taken their place in Cooperstown, along with Atlanta's longtime manager, Bobby Cox, and the architect of 14 straight division titles, general manager John Schuerholz.

A third baseman who played his entire 19-year career in Atlanta, Jones appears certain of election based on a tracking of ballots that show his support running at more than 98 percent, well above the 75 percent threshold.

His credentials include a .303 career average, 468 homers, nine seasons with at least 100 RBIs, eight All-Star Game appearances, a .401 on-base average, the 1999 NL MVP award, a batting title at age 36.

Jones always had a real appreciation for the history of the game and all the greats who came before him, which would make getting into the Hall even more poignant.

His father idolized Mickey Mantle, so he pushed young Chipper to become a switch-hitter. Jones wound up batting above .300 from both sides of the plate — an accomplishment that eluded even the Mick.

"I didn't play the game for money," Jones told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "I never saw a pay stub my entire time in professional baseball. I didn't care. I didn't have to be the highest-paid player. Trust me, I was more than happy with what I got."

Indeed, while he made about \$177 million during his career, Jones never really came close to becoming a free agent. He wasn't interested in seeing what he could bring on the open market. He was content to remain with the Braves, always cognizant of how good he had it.

Jones broke into the lineup in 1995, helping win a fourth straight division title and what would be Atlanta's only World Series championship during his run. There were 10 more division titles in the unprecedented streak, which finally ended in 2006. Jones played on two more playoff teams, then retired after the 2012 season, giving him 13 postseason appearances in all.

Only twice in his career did the Braves have a losing record.

SEE FEELING ON PAGE 29

CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

All signs point to Chipper Jones becoming the latest member of the Atlanta Braves to enter the Baseball Hall of Fame when the next group of inductees is revealed Wednesday.

By the numbers

19

Years played in the majors, all with the Atlanta Braves.

.303

Jones' career batting average

1999

Year he won the NL MVP award

98

Percent of Hall of Fame ballots supporting Jones' election.

SOURCE: AP

Cousins' historic triple-double lifts Pelicans over Bulls in 2OT » Page 26

Bucks fire Kidd, hope to spark young team's progress » Page 27

